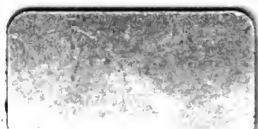


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LETTERS

ON

SILESIA,

WRITTEN DURING A

TOUR THROUGH THAT COUNTRY

IN THE YEARS 1800, 1801;

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,

THEN MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY FROM THE UNITED STATES TO
THE COURT OF BERLIN; AND SINCE A MEMBER OF THE
AMERICAN SENATE.



IN TWO PARTS:

PART II.

Containing a Journal of a Tour through Silesia, performed in the latter Part of 1800, by Mr. Adams; in which the Topography, the Agriculture, Manufactures, and Commerce, and the Morals and Manners of the People of that Dutchy are accurately described.

Containing a complete geographical, statistical, and historical Account of Silesia; together with a Detail of its political Constitution, military, civil, and ecclesiastical Establishments, Seminaries of Education, Literature, and learned Men.

EMBELLISHED WITH A NEW MAP.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. BUDD, AT THE CROWN AND MITRE, PALL MALL.

1804.

37

PLATE 500 NO. 7 9 2

S. GOSNELL, Printer,
Little Queen Street, Holborn.

ADVERTISEMENT,

THESE Letters were written from the places and at the times with which they are dated, by the eldest son of the late President of the United States, at that time American Minister at Berlin, to his brother Thomas Boylston Adams, Esq. at Philadelphia. It will be evident on reading them, that they were not originally intended for public view; but the younger Mr. Adams, at the request of some gentlemen of distinguished taste to whom they were shewn, permitted them to be printed in the Port Folio, a miscellaneous paper published in the Transatlantic capital. From that work they are now, for the first time, collected, and are offered to the British public as a faithful picture of the interesting province of Silesia, by the hand of a gentleman, a scholar, and a statesman.

Pall Mall, June 24, 1804.

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PART THE FIRST:

CONTAINING A

JOURNAL OF A TOUR

THROUGH

S I L E S I A,

PERFORMED IN THE LATTER PART OF THE YEAR
1800,

By MR. ADAMS.

IN WHICH

THE TOPOGRAPHY, THE AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES,
AND COMMERCE, AND THE MORALS AND MANNERS
OF THE PEOPLE OF THAT DUTCHY ARE
ACCURATELY DESCRIBED.

TOUR

THROUGH

SILESIA.

LETTER I.

Departure from Berlin—Frankfort on the Oder — Annual Fairs — Beet-Sugar — Jewish Filthiness—University—The Oder — Prince Leopold of Brunswick—Kleist—Mineral Waters—M. Schoening the Landrath—Canals—Count Finkenstein.

Frankfort on the Oder, 20th July 1800.

As I have bespoken your company upon our journey into Silesia, I begin this letter at our first resting station from Berlin. Hitherto we have indeed seen little more than the usual Brandenburg sands, and perhaps you

will find our tour as tiresome as we have found it ourselves. I cannot promise you an amusing journey, though I hope it will prove so to us. My letters to you on this tour will be in the form, and serve as the substitute, of a journal. They will, of course, be fragments, written at different times and places; nay, perhaps, in different humours: therefore, make up your account to receive patiently all my tediousness.

On Thursday the 17th inst. we left Berlin, just after three in the morning, and arrived here at about nine the same evening. The distance is ten German miles and a quarter, which, you know, is a very long day's journey in this country. In the course of a few years it will be an easy journey of eight hours; for the present King, who has the very laudable ambition of improving the roads through his dominions, is now making a turnpike road, like that to Potsdam, the whole way hither; as yet, not more than one German mile of it is finished, and the

rest of the way is like that which, on every side, furrounds the *Tadmor* of modern times. As we approach within a few miles of Frankfort the country becomes somewhat hilly, and, of course, more variegated and pleasant than that near Berlin; but we could perceive little difference in the downy softness of the ground beneath us, or in the *needles* of the pines within our view. Part of the country is cultivated, as much as it is susceptible of cultivation; and here and there we could see scattered spires of wheat, rye, barley, and oats, shooting from the sands, like the hairs upon a head almost bald. We came through few villages, and those few had a miserable appearance. A meagre composition of mud and thatch formed the cottages, in which a ragged and pallid race of beggars reside: yet we must not be unjust, and must therefore confess, that we passed by one nobleman's seat which had the appearance of a handsome and comfortable house.

We arrived here just in time to see the last dregs of an annual *fair*, such as you have often seen in the towns of Holland, and as you know are customary in those of Germany. Here we heard great complaints against the minister Struensee, for having ruined the value of the *fair*, by prohibiting the sale of foreign woollen manufactures, which have, heretofore, been the most essential articles of sale at this fair. This prohibition is for the sake of encouraging the manufactures of this country, a principle which the government pursue on all possible occasions. They are no converts to the opinions of Adam Smith and the French economists, concerning the balance of trade, and always catch with delight at any thing which can prevent money from *going out of the country*. Of this disposition we have seen a notable instance in the attempts lately made here for producing sugar from beets; of which, I believe, you heard something while you were here, and about which much

has been said and done since then. At one time we were assured, beyond all doubt, that one mile square of beets would furnish sugar for the whole Prussian dominions. The question was submitted to a committee of the Academy of Sciences, who, after long examination and deliberation, reported, that, in truth, sugar, and even brandy, might be produced from beets, and in process of time might be obtained in great quantities; but that, for the present, it would be expedient to continue the use of sugars and brandies, such as had been hitherto in use. Since this report, we have heard little or nothing of beet-sugar.

Frankfort is an old town, pleasantly situated, and containing about 12,000 inhabitants, of which a fourth part are Jews. It is, therefore, distinguished by those peculiarities which mark all European towns where a large proportion of Israelites reside, and to express which, I suppose, resort must be had to the Hebrew language: the English,

at least, is inadequate to it; for the word *filth* conveys an idea of spotless purity in comparison with Jewish nastiness. The garrison of the town consists of one regiment. There is here, likewise, an university; and by the introduction of a letter from Berlin, we have become acquainted with two of the professors. The number of students is less than two hundred; of whom one hundred and fifty are students of law, ten or fifteen of divinity; and not more than two or three of medicine. The library, the museum, and the botanical garden, the professors tell me, are all so miserable, that they are ashamed to shew them.

The banks of the Oder, on one side, are bordered with small hills, upon which, at short distances, are little summer-houses with vineyards; and at these, during summer, many inhabitants of the town reside. On the other side the land is flat, and the river is restrained from overflowing only by a large dyke, which has been built since the year

1785. At that time the river broke down the smaller dyke, which had, until then, existed, and overflowed the country to a considerable extent. Prince Leopold of Brunswick, a brother of the present reigning Duke, was then colonel of the regiment in garrison here, and lost his life in attempting to save some of the people whom the inundation was carrying away. You have probably seen prints of this melancholy accident, and there is an account of it in the last editions of Moore's early *Travels*. There is a small monument erected in honour of the Prince, upon the spot where his body was found. It was done by the freemasons of this place, of which society he was a member; but there is nothing remarkable in either the design or the execution. There is, likewise, in the burying-ground, a little monument, or rather tombstone, to Kleist, one of the most celebrated German poets, whom his countrymen call their Thomson. He was an officer in the service of Frederick

the Second, and was killed at the battle of Cunerſdorf, a village diſtant only a couple of miles from this place.

Juſt at the gate of the town there is a ſpring of mineral water, at which a bathing-houſe has been built, with accommodations for lodgers. This bath has been conſiderably frequented for ſome years paſt, and the phyſicians of the town ſay that the waters are as good as thoſe of Freyenwalde. I am willing to believe them as good as thoſe of Toeplitz; for my faith in mineral waters in general was not much increaſed by the ſucceſs of our tour there laſt ſummer.

22d July.

Still at Frankfort. We had left Berlin without being fully aware of the precise nature of the journey we had undertaken, and had not thought of providing furs and winter clothing for a tour in the dog-days. But one of the profeſſors, to whoſe acquaintance we have been introduced, at this place,

had formerly gone the same journey ; and, from his representations, we have been induced to send back to Berlin for thick clothing, and this circumstance has prolonged our stay here two days more than we at first intended. Yesterday we took a ride of three or four miles to the country-seat of a Mr. Schoening, the *landrath* of the *circle*. The functions of his office are to collect the territorial taxes within a certain district called a *circle*, which is a subdivision of the province. You know the importance and extent of this title of *rath* or *counsellor*, in the constitutions of the German states. It is a general name, designating every officer in all the subordinate parts of the administration ; and sometimes a mere honorary title, which Frederick the Second, by way of joke, once granted to a person, *upon condition* that he should never presume to give any *counsel*: for the principle upon which the name is founded is, that the person holding the title occasionally gives the King counsel, and the first part of

it usually designates the particular department in which he gives it.

Mr. Schoening and his lady received us with great kindness and hospitality. From the neighbourhood of their house, and on our return, we had the pleasure of agreeable prospects of the town, the river, and of the country beyond it; though it has not much variety, nor any thing remarkably striking.

Not far beyond Mr. Schoening's house is a canal, joining the Oder to the Spree, by means of which a water communication is established between the Baltic and the North Sea; there is, likewise, a similar canal between the Oder and the Vistula. Frederick the Second made several of these junctions of rivers during his reign, and some had been made by his predecessors. Their benefit in facilitating the intercourse between the several parts of Germany, and, above all, with Poland, would be still greater than it is, if it were not counteracted by that mutual jealousy which bars the passages between the

dominions of neighbouring and rival sovereigns.

At a distance of about two German miles from this, resides Count Finkenstein of Madlitz, a son of the venerable old minister of state, who died last winter, and whose lady and daughters you have seen at Berlin. He was formerly president of the judicial tribunal at Custrin, but was dismissed by Frederick the Second, on the occasion of the miller Arnold's famous law-suit: an instance in which the great King, from mere love of justice, committed the greatest injustice that ever cast a shade upon his character. - His anxiety upon that occasion to prove to the world that in his courts of justice the beggar should be upon the same footing of right as the prince, made him forget that in substantial justice the maxim ought to bear alike upon both sides, and that the prince should obtain his right as much as the beggar. Count Finkenstein, and several other judges of the court at Custrin, together

with the High Chancellor Fürst, were all dismissed from their places for doing their duty, and persisting in it contrary to the will of the King, who, substituting his ideas of natural equity in the place of the prescriptions of positive law, treated them with the utmost severity for conduct which ought to have received his fullest approbation. Since that time, Count Finkenstein has lived upon this estate of his, cultivating his farm, and in the converse of the Muses; we have not had an opportunity, during our stay here, to visit him, he and his family being at present absent from his seat; but we are told that no lands in the province are in so flourishing a condition as his. The Count unites the pursuits of literature with those of farming, and has lately published a translation of Theocritus in German verse.

We propose to continue our journey to-day as far as Crossen.

Yours ever.

LETTER II.

Crossen—Grünberg—Woollen Manufactures—M. Förster—Cultivation of the Vine—Manners and Dress—M. Anders—Garve—Discontents at Frankfort—Freystadt—Count Kalkreuth—Complimentary Visit from the Town-officer—Cheapness of Provisions.

Grünberg, 23d July 1800.

As I have stipulated that you shall peruse none of my letters written during this tour but with your map in hand, I need not tell you, perhaps, that this is the first town we have reached after entering upon the borders of Silesia. Its distance from Frankfort is ten German miles; we left that place yesterday at one in the afternoon, and again experienced, as we had done more than once before, how impossible it is to carry into effect the determination of not travelling in

the night. We were told at Frankfort, that we could easily go from thence to Crossen in eight hours, and in four from our departure, that is, at five in the afternoon, we had actually come half way. There remained one stage of three miles for us to perform, which, after waiting as usual more than an hour to change our horses, we were seven hours and a half in travelling; so that we reached Crossen at half past one this morning. We stopped there until seven, and then came the other four miles to this place, where we arrived between twelve and one at noon. The country through which we came is the exact counterpart of that between Frankfort and Berlin, or that between Berlin and Hamburg; only, if possible, deeper sands, narrower roads, and the more frequent shock of pine-tree boughs overhanging the way. It is truly the abomination of desolation. Well might Frederick the Second consider the soil of his ancient patrimony as an objection to the maxim that

God created nothing but what was destined to some purpose. "Sand," said the old King to Zimmermann, "I have always been puzzled to know for what purpose God created sand."

This town contains about seven thousand inhabitants, who derive their subsistence from two sources, from the manufacturing of broad-cloth, and from the cultivation of the vine. The first is carried on in a manner which it should seem might serve as an example for our own country. Here is no large capitalist at the head of an extensive manufacture, and employing at wages which will scarcely keep soul and body together, a large number of workmen whose labours only contribute to accumulate his enormous wealth; but here are between six and seven hundred looms, which furnish comfortable subsistence to as many families. The wool is partly raised in the neighbourhood and partly imported from Poland. There are several fulling-mills which belong

to the guild or corporation of the manufacturers, and are used in common by them all; but the spinning, the carding, the dying, the weaving, the drying, the pressing, the napping, in short the whole process, from the shearing of the fleece to the sale of the cloth for the taylor, is performed by each separate manufacturer for himself. It is possible, for I cannot dispute the principles of Adam Smith respecting the *division of labour*, that by the separation of all these single operations the same quantity of industry might produce a greater quantity of manufactured materials, but it is very doubtful whether it would produce a competent subsistence for so many individuals. Where the system of subdividing labour *ad infinitum* is established, each individual workman is but an infinitesimal fragment of a vast body. One man, ten men, fifty men, combining all their faculties together, cannot produce any thing: unless there is a manufacture upon an immense scale, there

can be none at all. The single workman is thus placed altogether dependant on the great capitalist, and must of course become his drudge. Thus hundreds of laborious men will be compelled to groan and sweat under a weary life, for the sake of adding thousands more to the thousands of one merchant. But where all the operations for the production of a manufactured work can be performed by one man, or by a small number of men, each single workman will be of more consequence in himself, more independent of his employer, and more certain of subsistence; the profits of manufacturing will be distributed in smaller portions, and to greater numbers; there will be less accumulation and more circulation of wealth.

The most considerable manufacturer here is a Mr. Förster, and he only possesses and uses the machines for spinning and carding wool which are employed in the English manufactures, and are well known in America. We went to see these machines in

operation, and they were shewn us by Mr. Förster, not only with great complaisance, but with much apparent pleasure; he was delighted at the sight of a native American, the first whom he had ever seen. This country in general is seldom visited by strangers, and in such countries strangers are always treated with the utmost attention and hospitality. Many years ago I had experience of this in Sweden; and the farther we now remove from Berlin the more we become sensible of it upon this road. They make in this town about 25,000 pieces of broad-cloth annually, of four different qualities; the finest is to all appearance as handsome as the English broad-cloth, which we commonly wear for coats, and is about fifty per cent. cheaper. Mr. Förster told me it would give him great pleasure to send some of his cloths to America, and I have no doubt but that a merchant who would speculate upon them from our country, would find his account very well in it; they now

send them to Poland, Russia, Hamburgh, and Berlin.

Their wine is a much more precarious source of profit than their broad-cloth. The whole country furrounding the town is clad with vines, and in favourable years they raise wine enough, not only for their own consumption, but likewise large quantities for exportation. But Bacchus loves to bask in warmer climates than these; a hard winter kills the vines, and others must be planted at a considerable expense; if they blossom too early, they are nipped by the frost; if too late, their liquor turns to vinegar: a cold night late in the spring, or early in the autumn, is enough to cut off half their vintage; and upon the whole, the labour and expense they bestow upon this fruit are all thrown into a lottery, which has several blanks to a prize. A stranger however cannot be surpris'd that they should hazard so much upon the grape when he sees the land upon which it is planted. It is the only

way in which Nature can here be forced to yield any thing.

I have already observed to you that we perceive the manners of the people here to differ from those to which we have been accustomed at Berlin. It extends only in a slight degree to the dress of the women, which is remarkable for a sort of fillet or diadem of black velvet, bordered on both sides with gauze or lace, which they wear round the head, and which has a pretty effect. There is likewise a great simplicity in their dress; and the costume of those who are in circumstances of wealth or competence differs from that of the poorer class only in the fineness of the clothes they wear. Mrs. Förster, the wife of the gentleman I have mentioned to you, was thus dressed, in a short jacket and petticoat, with a white apron, and handed us cakes and wine for refreshment herself, which both she and her husband urged us to take, with great kindness and cordiality. He himself appears to

be much of a politician, and reads the newspaper very constantly. The national feelings, aversion against Austria, and goodwill to France, were very perceptible in his conversation, and in that of another gentleman to whom I had brought a letter; but they both spoke with great applause of the Americans, for having persevered in supporting their system of neutrality during the war. Nothing was more true, said Mr. Förster, than the old proverb, *Friede nussert, und krieg verzehrt*—(Peace blooms, and war consumes). I saw nothing in either of these persons that discovered any tincture of the new philosophy; on the contrary, Mr. Anders, who is a man of information and letters, expressed himself a great admirer of that philosophy which is easily applied to the purposes of life; and with dislike of that which is merely speculative, and finds no end, “in wandering mazes lost.” Upon this ground, he declared his preference of *Garve* to *Kant*, as a philo-

fopher. *Garve* was a German writer, who died about two years ago at Breslau; he is highly celebrated as far as his language extends, though his fame has not yet been blazoned so widely abroad as that of Kant. His writings are chiefly upon topics of morality, which he has promoted by his own works, and by translations both from the Latin and English, from that most admirable monument of ancient genius and wisdom, Cicero's *Treatise de Officiis*, and from the modern but valuable book of Dr. Paley.

In the manners and conversation of these persons, upon the whole, we found a frankness, a cordiality, and good nature truly republican, or which at least I love to consider as such. They speak with openness and freedom of their own government, which they praise and blame according as they think it deserves. I told you in my last letter of the symptoms of dissatisfaction we had seen at Frankfort. The merchants and traders were discontented at being deprived

of the principal profits of their fair; and the nobility at having been subjected to a heavy excise upon small wines and beer, from which they had always been exempted by privileges which they say the King at his accession swore to maintain. Here the nobility and the towns were displeased, that the King should have taken the *homage* of Silesia by a mere deputation from the States to Berlin; and think he ought to have taken it solemnly at Breslau, as his father and Frederick the Second had done. Some of the towns in particular claim it as an express privilege, to do homage no where but at Breslau; and the province in general thought itself slighted by the omission of the ceremony.

As we are here not far from the borders of Poland, or what they now call South Prussia, we also hear something of the administration in that country which is not without censure. Numerous officers have been placed there, who treat the Poles too much

as a conquered people, and industriously labour to render galling that yoke which every principle of good policy would rather induce them to alleviate.

Freystadt, 24th July.

We came here this morning from Grünberg, striking out of the great road to Breslau, which we shall not visit, at least for the present; and in order to get into the great road to Hirschberg, and the mountains which we had left at Crossen in order to pass through Grünberg. I had a letter for a Count Kalkreuth, who resides here, whose grounds are said to be laid out with great taste and elegance in the English manner, and who has a remarkably fine library; but upon arriving here we find that the Count is absent, and will not return for several days. But this town being out of the ordinary post-road, we could not procure horses to proceed until to-morrow morning, and must reconcile ourselves to remain here the rest of the

day. This circumstance, though not the most agreeable in itself, has enabled us to make a discovery of our own consequence, which will make you smile at least, though I hope you will not laugh aloud at our expense. Know then that a town-officer has this afternoon come formally in the name of the magistrates, and of the whole town, to compliment us upon our arrival here; to offer us all the services in their power, and to express their high satisfaction at possessing within their walls, &c. &c. &c.; for the good gentleman's eloquence was so highly rhetorical, that but for the high respect I owe the magistrates of the town, I should have been strongly reminded of the first adventure of Gil Blas when he set out upon his travels. Yet this comparison would have been alike unjust and ungrateful, as the compliment in this case was truly sincere. The worthy officer, instead of eating our supper and then giving us a lesson of

modesty, has added to his compliment the present of a basket of fine fruit.

A circumstance which cannot escape the observation of a stranger, on entering Silesia from the Electorate, is an immediate and essential change with respect to the articles of provision at the public houses; they improve in quality, and at the same time are at much lower prices. We find at the inns a printed paper posted on the door of every apartment, and marking the regulated prices for every item of entertainment, which the innkeepers cannot exceed. We had just been paying a dollar each for very bad dinners at Frankfort, and at Grünberg were charged only one third as much for very good ones. The other charges were all in the same proportion. This fact is worth mentioning, because it tends to prove how well fitted this province is to be a manufacturing country.

Yours affectionately.

LETTER III.

Misery of the Peasants—Sprotau—Cloth Manufactory—Convent and Church of St. Mary Magdalen—Enmity between the Catholics and Protestants—Potteries—Extraordinary Ingenuity of Jacob the Carpenter and Hüttig the Weaver.

Bunzlau, 26th July 1800.

YESTERDAY morning early we took our departure from Freystadt, and came to this place, a distance of eight German miles, five of which are in a single stage from Sprotau hither. The face of the country has visibly and greatly improved as we came along; and although we still had to wade through several miles of sands, more or less deep, we were frequently relieved by patches of good roads, and by beautiful fields of wheat, rye, barley, oats, and especially flax,

which appeared in a highly flourishing condition. As it happens to be just now the harvest-time, we passed many groups of reapers, a sight which would have afforded us more satisfaction had we not known that they were far from gathering the bounties of the season for themselves, and had they not, by frequently soliciting our charity, proved the wretchedness of their condition. We travelled through Saxony, a part of the March, and a corner of Bohemia, last year at this time, and then we also met many companies of reapers; we saw several last week as we came from Berlin, but we never before beheld them beg. Since we entered Silesia, yesterday and the day before, certainly more than twenty times, as we passed by troops of peasants of both sexes who were gathering the harvest, a woman from among them, and sometimes two or three, ran from the fields to our carriage with a little bunch of flowers tied up with some ears of the grain which they were gathering,

and threw them into the carriage at the windows, by way of begging for a dreyer or half a grosh. The reason of this is, because the condition of the peasant in Silesia is much worse than in the Electorate. For although personal servitude exists alike in both provinces, yet the serf in the March is never compelled to labour for his lord, more days than there are. In Silesia he is often obliged to furnish ten days work in a week: judge then, after the man and his wife have both laboured five days in seven for the lord, what sort of a subsistence they can earn in the remaining two (one of which is a Sunday) for themselves.

There is so little travelling through this country, that unless post-horses are bespoken beforehand they must be waited for, until they can be brought in by some peasant from the fields. Thus we were obliged to stop yesterday three hours at Sprotau, and, to employ the time, went round the town to see whatever it contained remarkable. It is a

small place, with about two thousand inhabitants, one third of whom are Catholics. It stands upon the *Bober*, a small branch of the Oder, which likewise runs through this town, but is too shallow to be navigable, and only serves at Sprotau to give motion to a number of corn-mills and fulling-mills, which we saw fully employed. The manufactory of broad-cloth is likewise carried on at Sprotau, at Freystadt, and indeed in all the towns in this part of Silesia, though in none of them, excepting Goldberg, to so great an extent as at Grünberg.

In Sprotau there is a convent of nuns, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, who not being so liberal in their open intercourse with our sex as their great patroness, could not be visited by *me*.

We went over the Catholic church, which joins upon the nunnery, and is alike dedicated to Mary Magdalen. Of the pictures hung round the church and the altar-pieces, those which represent her were alone tole-

rable. There was an image modelled upon the famous one of our Lady at Loretto, which Buonaparte took the liberty of sending to Paris about four years ago. The most remarkable thing which I saw in the church was a paper posted up on the inner side of a confessional, written in Latin, and containing a list of the sins to which the ordinary priest was forbidden to grant absolution, as being expressly reserved for the consideration of the holy father himself. I expected to have found at least some heinous crimes upon the list; but unless the murder of a priest may be considered as of that denomination, there was not one. The offences were, burying an heretic in holy ground, reading the books of the heretics without a special license, refusing to pay tithes, and about a dozen others, all of the same stamp, and all having some reference to the papal authority. Observe particularly, that the unpardonable crime of reading heretical books is expressed in terms so vague

and comprehensive (*libros hereticorum*), that they may be construed by the priest to mean almost any books he pleases ; and this paper is publicly posted in a country where the Catholics themselves are but a tolerated sect, the subjects of a Protestant sovereign. It is possible indeed that the restraints of the Romish church upon its followers may be more rigorous and more public in such a country than where its authority is unquestioned and unopposed. Silesia was originally under the Austrian government a Catholic province ; at this time about one half of its inhabitants still adhere to that religion ; and although the steady maxims of the Prussian government, and still more the revolutions of time and opinions, have powerfully operated to introduce a spirit of mutual forbearance, if not harmony, there is perhaps no part of Europe where the root of bitterness between the two parties is yet so deep, and cleaves with such stubbornness to the ground, as here. The Catholics hate the Protestants

the more, for having, now, secure and unlimited liberty in their worship; and the Protestants envy the Catholics the privileges they still retain, and which the Prussian government has bound itself to preserve. Mr. Zöllner, who published a tour through Silesia, made in the year 1771, and from whom I draw much of the information I give you, says, that it is common here for a Catholic to exhibit, before a Lutheran judge, a complaint against another Catholic, for calling him a Lutheran, and requiring satisfaction for what he considers as the blackest slander that could be cast upon him.

About half way between Sprotau and this place we first came in sight of the mountains towards which we are travelling, and from which we are still about forty of our miles distant.

Hirschberg, 27th July, Sunday.

Before I give you an account of our journey hither, I must say something of what

we saw yesterday at Bunzlau ; and which I had not time to tell you, before we continued our journey.

The principal manufactory of Bunzlau is in pottery ; particularly of those brown coffee-pots and milk-pots, of which you have seen many at the inns of Berlin, and through the Electorate. Of these potters there are at Bunzlau nine, each of whom employs six or eight workmen. We saw them make several large pots, such as are commonly used to hold butter. From a cubic mass of clay, about a foot thick, they form, in about five minutes, the pot, by merely moulding it with the hand, while it whirls round upon a sort of circular bench, placed before the workmen. We could not, however, stay long to see them, for they work in the same room where the ovens are heated to bake the pots, and its warmth was to us intolerable. In the yard of this pottery there is a pot of prodigious size, made about half a century ago, which contains nearly fifty

busshels. It is about twelve feet high; is hooped like a barrel, which it resembles in form, and is kept in a house built purposely for it. The Germans appear to have a particular predilection for things of enormous dimensions in their kind; the tuns of Heidelberg and Königstein, and this pot, serve as examples to shew how much *size* enters into their ideas of the sublime.

But the greatest curiosities of Bunzlau are two mechanical geniuses by the name of Jacob, and of Hüttig, a carpenter, and a weaver, who are next-door neighbours to each other. The first has made a machine, in which, by the means of certain clock-work, a number of puppets, about six inches high, are made to move upon a kind of stage, so as to represent in several successive scenes the passion of Jesus Christ. The first exhibits him in the garden at prayer, while the three apostles are sleeping at a distance. In the last he is shewn dead in the sepulchre,

guarded by two Roman soldiers. The intervening scenes represent the treachery of Judas, the examination of Jesus before Caiaphas, the dialogue between Pilate and the Jews concerning him, the denial of Peter, the scourging, and the crucifixion. It is all accompanied by a mournful dirge of music; and the maker, by way of explanation, repeats the passages of Scripture which relate the events he has undertaken to shew. I never saw a stronger proof of the strength of the impression of objects, which are brought immediately home to the senses. I have heard and read more than one eloquent sermon upon the passion; but I confess, none of their most laboured efforts at the pathetic ever touched my heart with one half the force of this puppet-show. The traitor's kiss, the blow struck by the high priest's servant, the scourging, the nailing to the cross, the sponge of vinegar, every indignity offered, and every pain inflicted, occa-

fioned a sensation, when thus made perceptible to the eye, which I had never felt at mere description.

Hüttig the weaver, with an equal, or superior mechanical genius, has applied it in a different manner, and devoted it to geographical, astronomical, and historical pursuits. In the intervals of his leisure from the common weaver's work, which affords him subsistence, he has become a very learned man. The walls of his rooms are covered with maps and drawings of his own, representing, here the course of the Oder, with all the towns and villages through which it runs; there the mountains of Switzerland, and those of Silesia, over both of which he has travelled in person. In one room he has two very large tables, one raised above the other; on one of them he has ranged all the towns and remarkable places of Germany, and, on the other, of all Europe; they are placed according to their respective geographical bearings. The names of the towns

are written on a small square piece of paper, and fixed in a slit on the top of a peg, which is stuck into the table. The remarkable mountains are shewn by small pyramidical black stones, and little white pyramids are stationed at all the spots which have been distinguished by any great battle or other remarkable incident. The man himself, in explaining his work, shews abundance of learning, relative to the ancient names of places, and the former inhabitants of the countries to which he points ; and amused us with anecdotes of various kinds, connected with the lands he has marked out. Thus, in shewing us the Alps, he pointed to the spots over which the French army of reserve so lately passed, and where Buonaparte so fortunately escaped being taken by an Austrian officer ; and then he gave us a short comment of his own upon the character and extraordinary good fortune of the First Consul. In a second room he has a large machine, representing the Copernican system of the

universe: it is made in such a manner, as that the whole firmament of fixed stars moves round our solar system once in every twenty-four hours, and thus always exhibits the stars, in the exact position, relative to our earth, in which they really stand. Internally, he has stationed all the planets which belong to our system, with their several satellites, and all the comets that have been observed during the last three centuries. In a third room he has another machine, exhibiting in different parts the various phases of the moon, and those of Jupiter's satellites, the apparent motion of the sun round the earth, and the real motion of the earth round the sun.

In his garret he has another work, upon which he is yet occupied, and which being his last labour, seems to be that in which he takes the most delight. Upon a very large table, similar to that in the first room, he has inlaid a number of thin plates of wood, formed so as to represent a projection

of the earth upon Mercator's plan. All the intervals between the plates of wood designate that portion of the world which is covered with water. He has used a number of very small ropes of two colours, drawn over the surface in such a manner as to describe the tracks of all the celebrated circumnavigators of the globe. The colours of the ropes distinguish the several voyages from each other. To three of these great adventurers, who he thinks claim especial pre-eminence above the rest, Columbus, Anson, and Cook, he has shewn a special honour by three little models of ships, bearing their names, which are placed upon the surface of his ocean, in some spot of their respective courses. The names of all the other voyagers, and the times at which their voyages were performed, are marked by papers fixed at the points of their departure. Such is the imperfect description I can give you from a short view of the labours of this really curious man. He must be nearly, or

quite seventy years old, and has all his lifetime been of an infirm constitution. But this taste for the sciences, he told us, was hereditary in his family, and had been common to them all, from his great-grandfather down to himself. His dress and appearance were those of a common weaver: but his expressive countenance, at once full of enthusiastic fire and of amiable good-nature, was a model, upon which Lavater might expatiate with exultation. The honest and ingenious weaver, on our taking leave, made us smile by exclaiming, that now, if he could but have a traveller from Africa come to see his works, he could boast of having had visitors from all the four quarters of the globe.

Yours, &c.

LETTER IV.

Orphan-house at Bunzlau—Opitz—Lowenberg—Hirschberg—Beauty of the Country—The Opera of Rübenzahl.

Hirschberg, 28th July 1800.

THE narrow dimensions of my paper compelled me to break off my last letter, before I had finished giving you an account of all we had seen in the forenoon we stayed at Bunzlau: yet I had little more to say; for our visit at the orphan-house, which is, at the same time, a public school, scarcely deserves mentioning. We saw there nothing but a chapel and a dining-hall, in which there were about thirty boys at dinner: but the present being vacation-time, many of the children, and most of the instructors, are absent. Besides which, the institution itself, we were told, is much upon the decline, and,

instead of two hundred youths, who formerly were educated there, can now scarcely number fifty. There is also a convent of Dominicans at Bunzlau, which now consists only of three monks, and which had nothing worthy of being seen. Before we leave the town, it may not be amiss to tell you, that it was the birth-place of *Opitz*, who, though he lived less than a century ago, is considered as the father of German poetry, and whom they call the Swan of *Bober*, as the English call Shakspeare the Swan of Avon. You would not imagine the name of *Bober* calculated to sound very melodiously in poetical ditties; nor is the petty stream itself of a nature to inspire the most lofty strains: yet, to the ears of Germans, there is nothing harsh or ludicrous in the sound of *Bober*; and to their minds nothing can be more delicious than the verse of *Opitz*.

After devoting one morning to the sight of the curiosities of which I have now given you an account, at noon we pursued our

journey hither, and arrived here the same night between ten and eleven. At Lowenberg, the only stage between Bunzlau and this, we were again detained two hours to procure post-horses, and met the captain of a company in garrison at the place, who had been in America, among the troops of the Duke of Brunswick, and was taken prisoner with General Burgoyne at Saratoga. He returned to Europe soon after, and has been twenty years in the service of Prussia. Transient and accidental as this meeting was, he treated us with great civility, and offered us an apartment in his house to spend the night, in case we should not get horses in time to come on the same evening hither.

For the six German miles from Bunzlau here, we seemed transported into a different world from that in which we had travelled through the Electorate. Turnpike roads as fine as any in England; a continual interchange of hill and dale, exhibiting an endless variety of lovely prospects; frequent

and considerable villages and country-seats ; fields covered with luxuriant harvests ; oaks rearing their majestic heads to the clouds, and streams meandering through meadows, which, five times in a season, shoot up their fertility in defiance of the scythe : such is the scene for which we have exchanged pine-trees and sands.

Nothing can be more beautiful than the situation of Hirschberg itself ; an handsomely built town, with a number of noble edifices, situated in a valley, surrounded by hills, more or less elevated, on every side ; with the sublime gloom of the Giant Mountains as the back-ground of the scene. Yet we have not had an opportunity fully to enjoy its beauties ; the darkness of the night, when we arrived, having intercepted the charming prospect which the city presents to the approaching traveller. We found it very difficult the first night to procure a place to lodge in ; the town being, at this time,

full of company, owing to the vicinity of the baths at Warmbrunn, which are much frequented for two months from the middle of June.

Yesterday, being Sunday, we had not an opportunity of seeing any of the manufactures. We went in the afternoon to the Catholic church ; a large and ancient building, gaudily, but not richly decorated within. The pictures were all indifferent, excepting the great altar-piece, which represented the ascension of Christ, and appeared to be in a better style than the rest ; though I could not approach near enough to examine it accurately. When we went into the church the clergyman was catechising some children ; and afterwards I observed, that the service was chiefly performed in German. The organ was bad, or very badly played.

In the evening we went to the play, where we saw an opera, called *Rübenzahl*, performed for the first time here. This

Rübenzahl is a personage so important upon the Silesian mountains, that you would perhaps be glad to have some account of him; but as yet I know nothing farther of him than what Zöllner tells. He says, that it was formerly a general belief among the mountaineers, that on the highest summit of the mountains there resided a giant genius, named Rübenzahl; a very capricious sort of spirit, who assumed at pleasure the shape of a wolf, or a bird; a monk, or a bear; a huntsman, or a goat; a serpent, or a wisp of straw: who would often offer himself as a guide to the traveller, and, according as he happened to take his fancy, guide him faithfully, and make him handsome presents at parting, or lead him into swamps or wildernesses, and then leap upon a tree, and burst out into a horse-laugh at the perplexity of his miserable dupe: that he had a wonderful facility at raising instantaneous snow-storms, or thunder-storms, according as his

fit of caprice happened to be cold or hot ; and that nothing gave him so great offence as to hear his name spoken. Hence, the peasants, who frequented what they considered as his dominions, used to call him Mr. John, or the Giant Lord, or the Great Mountain God ; that they might not incur his displeasure by pronouncing his name. But, since a chapel has been built upon the spot of his abode, poor Rübenzahl has been obliged to fly, and nobody knows what has become of him : at least, it is certain, that since that period, now nearly one hundred and forty years, he has not been seen. I was very well pleased, that his first re-appearance should be upon the stage at Hirschberg, exactly at the time of our arrival ; but he must have lost much of his power, as well as of his malice, since he has been upon his travels, for he had nothing gigantic in his appearance last night. His costume was very much like that of Hamlet, prince of Denmark, upon

the London theatres; and the only symptom of magic about it was a white fash, with a few strange figures upon it, which might easily be taken for the riband of an order. L. said, he looked like any thing *but a genius*.

Yours, &c.

LETTER V.

Excursions among the Hills in the Neighbourhood of Hirschberg—Their romantic Beauties described.

Hirschberg, 28th July 1800.

WHEN I exacted, as a preliminary to your perusal of these letters, that you should always take a map of Silesia in your hand (for without it you will find them still more tedious than I am afraid they will prove at the best), I was not aware that I ought likewise to insist upon your having a like recourse to a map of ancient Greece. For who would have imagined, at the utmost extremity of Germany, to be transported in an instant upon the mountain of Helicon? yet thither has been, this day, our afternoon's excursion. An ingenious and learned gentleman of this town, who unites a fondness

for the beauties of nature with a taste for the improvements of art, and equally conversant with the classical geography of ancient times, and the delightful scenes that surround the place of his own residence, has given the name of Helicon to a hill in the neighbourhood of this town, from a resemblance which he supposed to exist between their respective situations. I can scarcely believe that the real Helicon ever exhibited any thing more beautiful and majestic than the scenes of its Silesian namesake; and indeed any mind susceptible to the harmony of sounds will most readily consent to change the name of Hirschberg for that of Thespiaë; of the Bober, for the Thermessus; of the Backerbrunnen, and the Merkelbrunnen, for the Hippocrene and Aganippe. The mountain itself, like its original, is covered with a wild and venerable forest of trees on one side, and with the profusest bounties of Ceres on the other. To increase the resemblance, in a sort of spiral road, winding up the hill,

at little distances from each other, niches have been opened in the woods, at spots which present the most delightful and varied prospects, and each niche is devoted to one of the Muses, with applicable inscriptions, quoted from the Greek and Roman poets. At the top of the hill is a small temple of Apollo; and in the niche of Terpsichore a square floor is laid down upon a plot of ground levelled for the purpose, supposed to be appropriated to a dance of the Graces: round the floor are placed in a semicircle nine benches, as seats for the Muses, who are to pass judgment upon the dance. All this is fanciful, and to a lover of classical antiquity peculiarly pleasant, as it forms a chain for the association of ideas all highly delightful, though from such different sources, as required the soul of a poet to bring them together. While the spectator is transported with the view of some of the fairest prospects that the face of the earth can boast of, to call at the same instant to

his recollection those exquisite enjoyments which the idea of scenes from ancient Greece must afford to every liberal and cultivated mind, is to administer a sort of intellectual luxury which discovers an uncommon sensibility for what is truly beautiful, and the highest refinement of taste. Unfortunately, other people, with blunter senses and less ingenuity, have been induced by this example to find resemblances and build temples, without perceiving the necessity of connexion and consistency in a fiction like this, and have given the name of Gibraltar to a bold projecting rock in the midst of this mountain of the Muses. The spot offers, indeed, a most enchanting prospect. Close before the spectator, and about two hundred yards beneath his feet, the junction of the rivers Bober and Zacken is formed. On his left hand, with the interval of the narrow profound valley through which the stream runs, rises, yet higher than the spot where he stands, a steep hill, covered with thick,

lofty, darkling pines. On his right, at a considerable distance, his eye is arrested by the solid gloom of the Giant Mountains; while in front, beyond the confluence of the rivers, it ranges unchecked over blooming meadows and loaded corn-fields, contrasted with the elegant buildings, and the handsome town of Hirschberg; furrounded, here with scattered villages, there with rocks, and hills, and groves interspersed throughout the scene, and bounded only by the horizon. Had this spot been situated any where else, no human being can imagine why it should be called Gibraltar: here, upon the mountain of Helicon, and in the midst of the seats of all the Muses, the name seems perfectly absurd. But this is not all. A merchant of this town, with more gratitude than judgment, and more money than taste, has been at the expense of building, at a small distance before the temple of Apollo, another temple of stone, dedicated, as appears by the German inscription in the front of

the building, to Frederick the Unique. Towards the bottom of the building is an altar, a solid cube, without ornament, intended as an emblem of perfection, with the inscription "Thanks to him." There are likewise inscriptions on the two inside end walls of the fabric; one, purporting that "from his days posterity would begin to date the golden age;" the other, that the building was erected by Mr. Geier, Jan. 24th, 1800: the date, no doubt, was chosen as being Frederick's birthday. That a Silesian should build a temple to Frederick the Second; that he should even consider the golden age as beginning from his days, may be excused; for his conquest of Silesia has, unquestionably, been of immense advantage to the province; but why this hill precisely should be chosen for such a show of patriotic devotion, is not easy to determine. An Austrian might indeed think the place well selected, and say, that the hero's usurpation of this mountain of the Muses aptly represented his usurp-

ation of the province ; as the great man had one quality in which he was by no means unique—a most ardent affection for the possessions of others. There are other inconsistencies, too, in the arrangements upon this hill. Thus, in proceeding beyond the temples, there are paths leading to different tracts, which respectively bear the names of Orcus and of the Elysian Fields : at the spot where these paths separate is a long rock, which, with the help of a little painting and a little imagination, is made to pass for the dog Cerberus ; but at a rocky point on the declivity of the hill, where the usually trodden path terminates, the mythological names are again abandoned, and the place is called the World's End. From this I went down to the bottom of the hill, until I came to the borders of the shallow stream which ripples along among the stones : here an immense rock hangs over in such a manner as to form a sort of cavern, noted for having been once the retreat of false coiners, and

which bears the name of the Cold Kitchen. It would be utterly in vain for me to attempt a description of the wild, romantic, and endlessly varied prospects we enjoyed in the course of this walk of four hours. It seems like a land of enchantment; you cannot walk at any time five minutes together without being presented with new prospects, of which no two are like each other.

Between the town and the mountain of Helicon is a smaller hill, called the Haufberg, upon which many of the citizens have formed small shady bowers, and built little fireplaces; so that they can come in the afternoon on summer days, make themselves tea or coffee, and sit and enjoy the beauties of the season and of the country: we saw several of these family parties partaking these innocent and wholesome enjoyments. We were ourselves accompanied upon our excursion by the postmaster of Hirschberg and his family. Mr. Rosentiel, a Silesian and a counsellor in the department of the mines at

Berlin, had furnished us with a written direction to guide us upon our route, had informed this gentleman beforehand that we were coming here, and requested his attention to us. We are much indebted to him for his civilities.

Yours affectionately.

LETTER VI.

Linen Manufactories near Hirschberg—Excursion among the neighbouring Hills—Warmbrunn.

Schreiberthau, 1st August 1800.

IF your map of Silesia is a good one, the spot from which I date this will be marked upon it; if not, you must make a point about half way between Hirschberg and the Riefengebirge, and you will hit the identical *kretscham*, or inn, from which I write. It is the first moment I have had for the purpose since I closed my last to you. We were told before we left Berlin, that the tour of these mountains was an excessively fatiguing journey; and from the specimen of the last two days, though we have by no means come to the worst, we find it was not misrepresented. The multiplicity of objects

we have seen is such, that you must be contented to take a very concise account of them, and perhaps you would have been better pleased had I pursued the same plan from the beginning. I return to the period of my journal where my last number left off.

July 29.—In the forenoon we visited, in company with our obliging friend the postmaster, a Mr. Schäffer, one of the principal linen-merchants of Hirschberg. It was our wish to have seen the manufactories of the linen themselves; but none of these are in the town, which is merely the *market*. Almost every peasant's hut in all the villages scattered round the mountains contains a linen-weaver, and a large proportion of the fields are covered with linen to bleach. Every morning, from eight o'clock till noon, you see a number of these peasants in the large square of Hirschberg, which is the market-place, with bags across their shoulders, containing one or more pieces of linen which they have brought there for sale.

It is bought of them by the merchants, who give it the final dressing, or, as they call it, *appreture*, and then send it to Berlin or Breslau, Stettin or Hamburgh. Here we find again the same system of manufactory which we had remarked with respect to broad-cloths at Grünberg, the system which will undoubtedly be the most suitable for the imitation of our own country when it shall become a manufacturing land, as indeed it already prevails among us to a certain degree.

There is a variety of different articles which in the manufactories pass under the general denomination of linen; but each of the considerable towns in Silesia which carries on this trade, confines itself principally, or is at least most noted for some one article, and furnishes but little of the rest. Thus the article for which Hirschberg is chiefly distinguished, is what they call in German *schleier*, comprehending what in English passes under the name of *lawn*, of long lawn, and of cambric. Mr. Schäffer told

me they had within the two last years received considerable commissions for their articles from Philadelphia and from Baltimore; but he made the usual complaint, which I scarcely ever knew an European merchant trading with America omit to make, of *bad payment*. The linen manufactured here might doubtless be had in America fifty per cent. cheaper than we pay for that of Ireland; but as the merchants here are not acquainted with the system of *credit* upon which our commerce with England rests, and as they are probably not rich enough to give such credit to a large amount, I am apprehensive our direct trade with this country will not prosper so soon, or so much, as I heartily wish it might. With ready cash, however, or an equivalent for it, I am convinced single speculations in this article, as well as in several others of the manufactures of this country, might be made from the United States with great advantage.

In the afternoon we went upon a hill near the town, in an opposite direction to the Helicon, which we had ascended the day before. This hill goes by several names; but that which seems to be the most prevailing is, the Cavalier-berg. Near its summit is a public-house, where the citizens of Hirschberg, who go out there in numbers every afternoon, are furnished with refreshments. In various places on the sides of the hill are small summer-houses, each of which belongs to a different person. Those merchants, whose circumstances permit them to possess one of these, usually prefer going with their families to them, and sending the refreshments by their servants, rather than repair to the public tavern. The prospects from this hill are nearly as diversified and as enchanting as those from the Helicon. The arrangements upon it were made by the same person, and were suggested to him by his wife, as the inscription upon a monument he has here erected to her memory testi-

fies; it adds, that she *lent* him a considerable sum of money to accomplish them. This inscription is in delicacy of taste so very inferior to all those on the Helicon, that one would be led to suspect the taste of his wife had suggested all his improvements, but for some other inscriptions which we meet with of a date subsequent to that of his wife's death. Before these arrangements were made, the only decoration on the summit of the hill was a gibbet, to deter evil-doers by the most conspicuous exhibition of the fate awaiting them that was possible. From the Cavalier-berg we went over to another elevation not far distant from it, on the top of which the same gentleman has built a small open rotunda, which he calls the Temple of Virtue, probably because it is rather a rock than a hill, and with a very steep ascent. Not far from the summit, on one side of the steps which have been hewn out, the position of the rock has formed a deep sheltered cavern, just of a size to con-

tain two persons ; over which is the inscription “ *Speluncam Dido dux,*” meant no doubt as a warning, never to step aside from the path leading to the temple of Virtue, however rugged, to enter the cavern of Temptation. The views of the country around are here again varied from those of the two other hills, and are equally charming, though less picturesque.

July 30.—Before seven in the morning we took leave of Hirschberg for a few days, and after an hour’s ride through a continual village of linen-weavers, reached Warmbrunn ; a place noted, as its name purports, for its hot-wells, which numbers of bathers and water-drinkers at this season of the year are used to frequent. The bathing-houses are fitted up in a better style than those of Toplitz, and there is a large and elegant chateau just built by Count Schafgotsch, the proprietor of the place, as well as of the whole country round this neighbourhood : he proposes for the future to reside here.

In this village there are likewise a number of glass-cutters, stone-cutters, and seal-engravers, three of whom we visited. The glass is in every respect inferior to that made in Bohemia, though higher in price; of course it cannot be compared with the English, which is still superior to that of Bohemia. The engraving, though tolerably good, is much inferior likewise to that of the English, who, it must be confessed, are the only nation who understand this art to perfection. The engravers, however, did not fail to find fault with my seal, engraved in London, which you know, the one with the arms. Mediocrity can never forbear carping at talents superior to itself. I bespoke a little seal with our lion upon it, from which when it is finished you shall judge what right the best engraver in Warmbrunn has to assume a censorship over those of England.

Yours affectionately.

LETTER VII.

Hermisdorf—Excursion to the Kynast—Count Schafgotsch's Castle—M. Preller's Vitriol-works—The Kochel-fall.

Schreibersbau, 1st August 1800.

ABOUT an English mile on this side of Warmbrunn is situated the village of Hermisdorf, just at the foot of the *Kynast*, one of the most celebrated Silesian hills: in the village itself there is nothing remarkable but the country-seat at which Count Schafgotsch has hitherto resided. He has a very fine library and a good collection of pictures, but we heard they were now all displaced for the purpose of removal, so that we could not see them. On the top of the *Kynast*, which it took us about an hour to ascend, are the ruins of an old castle, built in the year 1292 by one of the ancestors of Count Schaf-

gotsch. It was the family residence until 130 years ago, when it was struck with lightning; and as that happened to be just about the period when the feudal barons came down from their lofty fastnesses to inhabit the cities and the plains, the damage done by the fire from heaven to this castle was never repaired, and it has since then been uninhabited. The external walls are almost entire, and those within still remain sufficiently to shew the arrangement of the rooms and chambers, all which is pointed out by an old man who keeps the keys, and who calls himself the commandant of the castle. While we were picking a few of the raspberries which grow wild within the compass of the apartments of this castle, the recollection occurred to us that it was just two hundred years older than the discovery of America; and we moralized in thought upon the revolutions of time, which in the course of five centuries had thus converted the abodes of social life here into a wild and desolate ruin, while at

the same time they had changed in our country a howling desert into flourishing cities. The ruin of an old castle, a sight so frequent in this part of the world, always brings this train of ideas to my mind, and it always recurs with a new pleasure, as it tends so powerfully to heighten by contrast the pleasure which we derive from contemplating the prosperous condition of our native land. The prospects from the top of the hill are extensive and delightful, for I must always use the same words to express things of which the eye alone is competent to perceive and enjoy the difference. The best description of landscapes can seldom convey an accurate idea of the original, except to persons who have seen it; and as there is little probability that you will ever see the scenes which now supply so much amusement to us, you will thank me for not entering into details which could only be tedious to you. On one side of the ruins the declivity of the hill is almost perpendicular, and beyond the

very narrow vale at the bottom another pine-clad hill shoots up nearly to the same height, and equally steep; here you will judge, of course, there is an echo. It is so distant, however, that it will not return the loudest efforts of the human voice; but upon the firing of a musket its report rattles, and rolls, and reverberates, and dies away like a heavy clap of thunder.

The commandant has coffee made upon the hill, to refresh the traveller after the fatigue of mounting it, and keeps a book in which all who wish to record their ascension hither, inscribe their names; and those who feel or think themselves inspired poetically by the keen air of the mountain, add lines adapted to the occasion or to their feelings. In turning over the leaves of this book we generally met with such effusions as seemed to prove that the muses of the bards had “dictated to them *slumbering*,” for they still retained in an eminent degree their soporific qualities. The modest prose-men contented

themselves with noting down some moral maxim, which was as wise, if not as applicable, on the top of the Kynast as in the busiest city. The humblest aspirants to this species of immortality merely put down their names, which at least remain here when they are forgotten every where else.

After descending the Kynast, and continuing our journey about four of our miles further, we came to the vitriol-works of Messrs. Preller and Schaul, to the latter of whom we had a letter, but he was absent upon a journey to Breslau. Mr. Preller, however, who had been informed of our intended tour hither by the postmaster at Hirschberg, received us with great politeness, shewed us all his works, and afterwards accompanied us to the Kochel-fall, and to this inn, which is to be the centre of our excursions for several days.

The vitriol-works are in the highest degree curious; but even if I were able, from the cursory view of one hour, to give you a de-

tailed description of the complicated process by which from two kinds of ore produced at Kupferberg, a town but a few miles distant from this place, the manufactory makes green, blue, and white vitriol, oil of vitriol, an ochre which we commonly call Spanish brown, but which they call here English red, and sulphur, it is questionable whether you would understand it. To be thoroughly versed in such a succession of various operations as belongs to every great manufactory, it is absolutely necessary to unite the information contained in books with an ocular inspection of the works themselves. I shall therefore content myself with telling you, that by means of fire the sulphur is first separated from the ore; after which there remains a sort of clay, from which by a due mixture of water the vitriolic lye is distilled; and this, by a second application of fire, and a subsequent cooling, is converted into a green or blue substance, resembling alum, or into a white one, resembling loaf-

sugar, which are the different kinds of vitriol. The clayey remnant, after the distillation from the iron ore, forms the English red; and a third application of fire to the vitriol produces the oil. Mr. Preller, who has conducted this manufactory with great skill, and with a sagacity which improves every advantageous circumstance the local situation of the place affords, has likewise a pottery connected with it, to make all the earthen vessels for which he has occasion in the process of his manufactory, or to hold the various articles when they are made. The vitriol is used much as part of a composition for dying cloths, and likewise for making ink. The principal use of sulphur is but too well known.

The buildings stand on both sides of a little stream that falls into the Bober, called the Kochel; and this situation is essential, as it affords the means of receiving from the woods upon the mountains the immense quantities of fuel which the manufactory

confumes. The wood is felled, cut up, and split ready for the oven, in the forests themselves, close at the source of the river, and is thrown into it to float down when the waters are high, until it comes immediately before Mr. Preller's door. Hence, when, as at the present time, the waters are very low, the bed in which the river uses to run, is strewed all along with sticks of this wood ready split.

The Kochel-fall is about two English miles from the vitriol-work up the river; the walk towards it is in the highest degree romantic, full of the scenes of wild and sublime nature. The rocks on both sides of the stream resemble in a great degree those of the Elbe at Konigstein; but here they are covered with large and lofty trees, which apparently start up from the bosom of the very granite, and of which one can scarcely conceive where they have thrust their roots. The fall of the water is perpendicular, upwards of fifty English feet, and affords a

delightful view to the eye; but I have seen much higher waterfalls in Sweden. The stream here is now so low, that there is scarcely water enough to dash over the rocks; and what there is rolls as if it was ashamed of itself, without aspiring to the dignity of casting about any spray.

Yours affectionately.

LETTER VIII.

*Schreibersbau—Glass-houses on the Borders of
Silesia and Bohemia—Excursion to the
Giant Mountains—The Zackerle-fall.*

Schreibersbau, 3d August 1800.

AT the close of my last letter I left you in a cool refreshing shade, in view of the Kochel-fall, from which we proceeded the same evening to this inn. It was, as you may suppose, a fatiguing day; though not so much so as one or two we have gone through since, and several which still await us. This village in one respect resembles an American country town, more than any other spot I have seen in Europe. It contains about 350 houses and 1600 inhabitants; but they are scattered over an extent of several miles square, and the houses are all strewed about in spots, at an hundred rods or more.

from each other: the German travellers who visit the place, all speak of this arrangement as of something extraordinary, though to me it appeared perfectly familiar, from having been so much used to it in our own country.

Hirschberg, 5th August.

I had only written thus far when I was called away to perform our last and most important labour upon the present excursion; from which we returned here yesterday. After six most fatiguing days, in immediate succession, we propose spending a few days in this pleasant town to rest ourselves, in which I shall have time to bring up the arrears of my narrative with you.

We had been obliged to take one of the common post-chaifes of the country to go to Schreiberthau, the roads being such that our own carriage was not suitable for them; even the post-chaife could not answer the purpose of our travels beyond that place;

and for the remainder of our excursions we could use no other carriage than a common open peasant's cart, without springs or seats; instead of which, however, we had a couple of boards fixed across the cart and covered with straw, which upon the whole was really, or at least was thought, better than sitting on the bottom of the cart itself.

Thus equipped, we left Schreibershau between five and six in the morning of the 31st, and rode until noon over some of the worst roads which it has ever been my lot to pass, to see the glass-houses on the borders of Bohemia. There are two, one on the Silesian, the other on the Bohemian side of the boundaries, and about two English miles distant from each other; we saw them both. The mere glass-house is much the same on both sides, excepting that the Bohemian is larger, and makes a greater variety of articles. The principal things we saw made were vials, bottles, tumblers, wine-glasses, coffee-pots, and a sort of glass-wire

used upon lustres. I believe the proprietors of these works are not fond of having strangers come to inspect them, and they have some reason for such an aversion: in five or six instances, and at both the houses, the particular workman whom we stopped to look at failed in the article he was making, evidently because we were looking upon him; whether because his attention was involuntarily drawn away from his work to the spectators, or because the consciousness of being looked at excited the ambition of appearing to do the work with perfect ease, and occasioned failure from carelessness, or, by a contrary effect, raised that unusual anxiety to do well which defeats its own purpose, I shall not determine; but such was the fact. The Bohemian work is much superior in quality, and about fifty per cent. cheaper than that of their neighbours. They have likewise in the same village, and belonging to the same manufactory, glass-cutters, grinders, and gilders; so that the whole

process is completed on the spot. At the Silesian works they barely blow the glafs. Much of the Bohemian glafs is handsome; and if they would, as they easily might, consult the English work in the same article to improve the elegance of their forms, it would be difficult to distinguish between them: as it is, the immense difference between the prices of Bohemian and English glafs, even making every allowance for the necessary difference in the price of transportation, convinces me that an advantageous trade in this article too might be carried on between our country and Bohemia, and I hope it one day will. You will perhaps think I recur too frequently to this idea; but I confess one of the chief objects of my present tour was to obtain information respecting the manufactures of these countries.

After spending about four hours in looking over all these works, we returned to Schreibersshau, by the same road we had travelled in the morning, and reached that

place at about ten at night. I suppose the distance not more than ten English miles; but the road is so mountainous and rocky, that the cart could scarcely, for a quarter of a mile on the way, proceed on a quicker pace than a walk. The hills were partly covered with, and have been partly stripped of their woods, chiefly birch and pine, used as well at the glass-works, as at the manufactory of vitriol: much of the wood is heaped in piles, ready cut and split, along by the sides of the road, and much of it lies in the beds where all the streams run, to be floated down, when the season shall swell their current sufficiently for the purpose.

Both in going and returning we stopped at a peasant's hut, where we found excellent brown bread, water, milk, and butter, and tolerable cheese: these articles are met with in their utmost perfection, in every part of the mountains, even where you can get nothing else.

1st August, Friday. In making the usual excursions upon these mountains, it is necessary to be accompanied by a guide; for an acquaintance with all the places to be visited, towards some of which, not so much as a foot-path conducts, is a kind of profession; and as, in every profession, some one person following it, will always be more eminent than all the rest, so here, Siegmund Seidler, jun. originally a poor shoe-maker of Schreibershau, is the most widely celebrated of all the guides upon the Giant Mountains. Zollner, who published his tour hither, which he made in 1791, the next year, first brought forward in the list of fame, this indefatigable leader, who has been celebrated by all the German tourists on this route from that time: so far superior is he deemed to all his brother-trudgers, that our friend, the professor at Frankfort, who had been here before us, advised us, if Seidler should happen, on our arrival at Schreibershau, to be out with other company, rather to wait four or five

days, until his return, than to take any other guide: by good luck for us, he came home this morning at two o'clock, from having attended another company; and from this day we engage him.

To make an easy day's work, we determined to content ourselves this day with visiting the Zackerle-fall. At noon we left our inn, and after riding two hours in the cart, and walking an hour more, we reached the spot. As we rode along, about twenty women and children gathered round us to beg, and followed us all the rest of the way to the Fall, and a great part of it back. The situation of this Fall is as wild and romantic as that of the Kochel, and it is three times as high; that is, nearly one hundred and fifty feet. It seems, here, as in many other places in this neighbourhood, as if some violent convulsion of nature had riven the rocks, and made these formidable chasms, which yawn from so many of the elevations. At this place, you stand upon one side of the cleft, and see the

water dash down from the other, upon a level with yourself; between you and the stream is an abrupt precipice, which seems the more profound, for being so narrow; perhaps about an hundred yards. With the help of a ladder I descended to the bottom, and walked partly over the rocks, and partly over the billets of wood lying in the bed of the stream, to the spot upon which the water falls. We likewise went round by a winding foot-path on the top, to the spot from which the stream branches itself: from these three several positions the views are altogether different: and neither of them should be omitted. We returned as we went, and reached our inn about six in the evening.

It is the fashion among the German travellers who perform this tour, to make long and laboured descriptions of these two waterfalls; and at our inn at Schreibershau, a book, like that of the Kynast, is kept, in which all who visit them may insert their names. This book we found full of bombastic ex-

clamations at the grandeur of the two cataracts ; but the extreme scantiness of the sheet, or rather wire of water, that falls, makes them utterly unworthy of that name ; and fully justifies the lines written by some Frenchman, who appears to have amused himself at the expense of all the fustian exclaimers at the sublimity of these spectacles. His lines are the only good ones we found in the book :

Oh ! qu'il est joli ! qu'il est beau !

Pour un cœur tendre, et sincère,
De voir couler des gouttes d'eau
D'un rocher, dans la rivière.

LETTER IX.

*Visit to the Snow-pits of the Riesengebirge,
and to the Source and Fall of the Elbe.*

Schreibershau, 2d August 1800.

THIS day was devoted to the view of the Schneegruben, or snow-pits, which are considered as among the greatest curiosities of the mountains; and, likewise, to visit the source and the fall of the Elbe.

At seven in the morning we took to the cart, and after jolting over the rocks up-hill for two hours, came to the place beyond which no carriage can proceed. From the time when we left the cart we ascended, for about one hour, a steep of which you can form an idea, when I tell you that it was, throughout, about equal to the steepest part of Beacon-hill, in Boston. We then came to a peasant's hut, here called a *baude* (pro-

nounce it in English *boulder*), of which there are many upon these mountains, and of which, as they and their inhabitants have several distinguishing peculiarities, I shall say something more in a future letter. After resting an hour, and taking some refreshment at this, which is known by the name of the Silesian baude, we recommenced our ascent, and after toiling and panting half an hour longer, reached what is called the back of the Riefengebirge, that is, the summit of the whole range; though single rocks and hills upon them rise yet much higher. On this back we found a boundary-stone between Bohemia and Silesia; for the limits between the two provinces run all along upon this summit. We had, however, another half hour's walk, chiefly ascending, though less steep than before; when instantly a precipice, nearly fifteen hundred feet deep, opened its ghastly jaws before us; a sort of isthmus, or tongue of land, however, allowed us to proceed about an hundred rods further, until

we could fix ourselves against the side of a rock, and look over into the tremendous depth. We had then the precipice on both sides of us, and it passes by the respective names of the Great and the Small Snow-pit. They are so called, because generally the snow at the bottom remains unmelted the whole year round ; although this has not been the case for the last two summers, and, at present, they contain no snow at all. We were now elevated more than four thousand feet above the level of the sea ; beyond the jaws of the precipice, somewhat higher than ourselves, was the summit of a mountain, called the Great Wheel, or the Great Storm-cap. Just beneath our feet was the dreadful precipice, at the bottom of which, lofty pines, slanting downwards upon the still descending mountain, scarcely appeared to our eyes of the height of a lady's needle ; while beyond the foot of the mountains, our eyes ranged to almost an immeasurable distance, over hills and dales, corn-

fields and pastures, cities and villages, until they were lost in the gray vapours that bordered the far-extended horizon. The weather, which is here almost always cold, even when the regions below are melting with heat, was so unusually mild, that we had no occasion to take our cloaks, while we sat about an hour, and enjoyed the prospects around us. At the snow-pits, as at the falls, there is every appearance as if the immense masses of granite, of which these mountains consist, had been split and shivered by some great natural convulsion. The basaltic rocks, which rise in irregular pyramidal shafts from the bottom of the pits, to the height of four or five hundred feet, furnish materials for the controversy between the natural philosophers, whether it is a marine or volcanic production. L——, from this spot, returned to the Silesian baude, while I took an hour and a half more, to visit the source and the fall of the Elbe, which required about a mile of descent on the Bohemian side.

As there was no path leading towards it, and part of the way was not only very steep, but between low bushes and shrubs, in which the feet might easily get entangled, this was the most disagreeable part of this day's journey. The fall of the Elbe is higher than either of those on the Silesian side, being of about two hundred and fifty feet; but has the same disadvantage of extremely penurious waters; a disadvantage, which though much less in the spring of the year than at present, must always be considerable, owing to the proximity of the falls to the sources of their streams. In returning from this fall, we saw two or three of the eleven springs, from which, according to some of the German writers, the Elbe derives its name, as well as its waters.

Yours.

LETTER X.

Sources of the Elbe and the Oder—Description of the Silesian Mountaineers—Precarious State of the Weather—Seydorf—Lutheran Worship—Visit to the Mountains.

Hirschberg, 6th August 1800.

IN limiting each of these letters to a single sheet of paper, I find myself often obliged to break off in the midst of my story, and to give you in different letters fragments of our transactions in one day. My principal reason for this is to spare your patience, which I hope will last the longer for only having to undergo the trial of one sheet at a time: I now proceed, therefore, in the account of our excursion on the 2d inst. to the snow-pits and the Elbe-fall.

It is a remarkable circumstance, that upon this mountain, and certainly within three or

four English miles of each other, are the sources of the Elbe and of the Oder, two of the largest rivers of Germany ; one of which runs easterly, until it empties itself into the Baltic beyond Stettin, while the other takes its course westward, and rolls its waters into the North Sea at Cuxhaven. The sources of both are numerous ; for, instead of eleven springs, which some of the German geographers would assign to the Elbe, there are probably here above fifty which pay their tribute to it ; and the springs which finally send their streams to the Oder on the Silesian side, are equally numerous. It is one of the pleasing peculiarities which first meet the traveller's attention here, that he can scarcely walk ten minutes in any direction without meeting some rippling current, so cool and clear, that the mere sight or hearing of it, as it steals along, is enough to refresh his thirst and relieve his fatigue. But whence all these waters, so near the very summit of the mountains, can be supplied, is a question

which, I think, would have occurred to my mind here, even if I had not heard it started many years ago by our uncle C——. He was of opinion, that the mere rain which falls upon the top of high mountains could not be sufficient to feed the mighty rivers which there originate; and, after seeing the numberless brooks which run here, so near the highest pitch of these mountains, and the great and inexhaustible masses of water which proceed from them, I am altogether of the same opinion. This is not, however, the controversy which was once so warmly debated between the neighbouring Bohemians and Silesians upon this mountain, concerning the source of the Elbe: that question was, on which side of the summit the real source of the Elbe was; for the Silesians, not content with the honour of possessing the original source of the Oder, contended likewise that the Elbe originated on their side. You must not be surprised to hear that this contest was once carried so far

as to occasion scenes of riot and bloodshed between the neighbouring borderers; nor that, even to this day, the encroaching Silesians have not universally abandoned their hypothesis:

Between two and three in the afternoon we returned to the Silesian baude, where we stopped to dine upon the provisions we had carried with us, and upon what we could get there. They could only supply us with brown bread, milk, and butter; for which, however, they made us pay the double of what the same articles would have cost us in any of the Silesian cities. I mention this because these mountaineers have been represented to us, both in conversation and by the books of the travellers hither, as the most perfect models of patriarchal virtue, happiness, and simplicity: every thing we have seen of them has tended to give us ideas of them directly the reverse of these.

Their houses are situated at such an elevation upon the mountains, that the ground

will produce nothing but grafs, and they can raife nothing but cows, goats, and a few fowls. For fix months in the year they are in a manner buried under the fnow, and are cut off from all intercourfe with other human beings. Their log huts are of a fingle ftory and a hay-loft; the floor below is divided into four apartments, one of which is a ftable for their cattle, another their dairy, the third is the common dwelling-place of all the family, and the fourth a very fmall room for the reception of ftangers: the family-room ferves at once as kitchen, eating-room, and bed-room, and is heated with fires all the year round. There is a wide bench that goes all round the room, on which they fleep, for they have no beds, or, at moft, one for the mafter and miftrefs of the houfe; and if the ftangers who pafs the night there require foft beds, they muft content themfelves as well as they can with fweet hay, for ftraw is a luxury unknown to thefe virtuous patriarchs. As they have not this article for

their cows to lie down upon, they keep their stables uncommonly clean, and generally make one of the streams which are so abundant upon the mountains run through them and through the dairy : but their cow-yard, in which all the manure is kept, is close upon the house, so that you nose it at a great distance upon your approach to the house ; and by this community of the roof between the family and all the other cattle, so much filthiness arises, that it is scarcely conceivable how they can keep even their dairies clean. Of their persons they appear to take no concern at all, and are, of course, as dirty as any other peasants in the most wretched hovels of Europe. The houses are generally full of children, clad in no other garb than a coarse shirt ; oftentimes stark naked, and loaded with vermin like the land of Egypt at the last of its plagues. Such is the condition of these venerable and blissful beings, whom we had heard extolled as the genuine children of nature—the true samples

of mankind in the golden age. Their manners are varied, according to their individual characters; all are coarse, most of them disgusting, and some rude and insolent: as to their treatment of strangers, the only two by whom we have been entertained imposed egregiously upon us in their charges.

From the Silesian baude we returned after dinner to our inn at Schreiberhau, which we reached at about seven in the evening. It partakes rather too much of the qualities above described, as belonging to the peasants' huts, but is not quite so bad.

3d August, Sunday.

One of the great inconveniences to which the traveller in these regions must be subject, is an extreme dependence upon the weather. There are but three months in the year when the mountains can, with any comfort, be ascended; and at least three quarters of that time they are veiled in clouds, and obstinately deny the view of all

their most striking beauties. From the appearance of the last evening, we expected that this would be an unfavourable day for our intended excursion, and we were well pleased to have a day of rest after three of very hard labour; I likewise intended to improve the time by bringing up my journal with you, which, by the continual motion since our departure from Hirschberg, had necessarily run in arrear: even this morning, when I first rose, the clouds of the night had not dispersed, and I sat down quietly to begin my last number. I had written only a few lines, however, when our friend Seidler came, and told us the weather was clearing away, and that we must immediately take advantage of it. Before eight o'clock we were in the cart, and rode in a couple of hours to Seydorf, a village at the foot of the Schneekoppe, or, more properly, the Riefenkoppe (the Giant's Head), the loftiest of all these mountains, and the highest point of land in Germany. The weather being ex-

cessively warm, we stopped at this village during the heat of the day. The Lutheran church was opposite the inn where we rested, and I attended both the morning and afternoon service: they begin that of the morning by the communion, and at the close of it go through the ceremony of churching women; in the afternoon they begin by catechising the children, in like manner as I had seen the last Sunday at Hirschberg. I did not like the manner here so well as there; but this probably depends principally upon the individual character or disposition of the clergyman. The church here, as well as the village itself, is small; but it was well filled, and there were about fifty boys and girls, apparently from six to fourteen years of age, at the catechism: they stood in two rows in the broad aisle, the boys on one side and the girls on the other, while the clergyman went to and fro between them, with his exhortation and instruction. I thought he used too much action and vociferation.

The organ was tolerable, and the singing so good, that it reminded me of Connecticut. They sing, instead of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, like those of Dr. Watts, and it seemed to me in as good a style of poetry. I took a seat, which I found vacant, in the gallery, between an old farmer and a young peasant lass, each of whom, by turns, held their books open for me to join in the singing, which I regretted my inability to do. The sermon was not more than ten minutes long, and delivered partly extempore, and partly with notes. The subject was a discussion of the question, Why, in the dispensations of Providence, the wicked are suffered to live, and often to prosper? It was pretty well handled, and in a manner suitable to the preacher's audience. I take this occasion to remark, that the Lutherans in this country do not call themselves so, nor even Protestants, but Evangelics; so, in every village through which we pass, we find a Catholic church and an Evangelic church.

At four in the afternoon we seated ourselves again in the cart, and for three hours rode up-hill, as steep as any carriage could go; we then came to the Schilingel's baude, so called from the name of the person who keeps it. Here we left the cart until our return, and pursued our ascending route about an hour more, when we reached the Hempel's baude, otherwise called the Samuel's baude, from the names of its present and its former proprietor. This is the house at which almost all the visitors of the Giant's Head, from the Silesian side, pass the night before they go up: it has served for that purpose these hundred and thirty years; but though, during the season of visiting the mountain, it is always full of strangers, its accommodations are very little better than those of its other namesakes. Just below it is another hut, called the clerical baude, because it serves for the entertainment of priests and other religious persons, who, on five stated days in the year, are employed to say

mas in the chapel at the top of the mountain. From this baude, as we passed by it, a chubby boy of eight or ten years old came out to us to beg: another specimen this of the patriarchal happiness enjoyed by the inhabitants of these huts.

At the Hempel's baude we took up our quarters for the night. In the strangers' room, an apartment possibly of ten feet square, they covered the floor with an heap of fresh hay, over which they stretched a dirty sheet, upon which L——, Epps, and myself, all lay down together to get such sleep as could be obtained, under the incessant volubility of a number of strangers seated round a table in the family room, separated from us only by a latched door. They were, like ourselves, going to the top of the mountain in the morning; and, in the mean time, one of them appeared to be delivering lectures on rhetoric and the belles lettres to his companions; at least he was giving practical specimens of eloquence,

which did not cease until quite late in the night. Whitcomb, in the mean time, sought repose in the hayloft, where he was no less regaled with the musical jingling of the cow-bells, than we with the oratory of the travellers in the next room.

The prospect from this hut is already very extensive, and this evening we had a view of a fire in the plains below, at the distance of about forty English miles. It was a beautiful sight, though the idea that it was probably an heavy calamity to some of our fellow-creatures would not allow us to enjoy it.

One of the principal amusements at the baude is turning over the book kept here, as at Schreibersshau and the Kynast, for strangers to insert their names. Here it is called the *koppen* book, and has been regularly kept for more than a century. You may form an opinion of the numbers of people who perform this tour from the circumstance, that the volume now in use is at

its last sheet, and was begun no longer ago than the year 1788: the volume containing the names from 1696 to 1736 has been considered as so great a curiosity that it has been printed. It contains so much trash, that one of the German tourists congratulates his countrymen upon the improvement of their language and their intellectual endowments, apparent from the difference between that book and its successor at the present day: there appears to be still much room for future congratulation of the same kind. We found here and there a pretty drawing with the pen or pencil, of the most remarkable objects in the neighbourhood; here and there observations of the barometer or thermometer, as they stood at the time when the writers were here, and admeasurements of the heights and distances from this spot to the top of the Koppe. These, with a very few pretty lines, more or less applicable to the place, were all we could meet to refresh us in the dry desert of a thousand pages.

I had expected that I should be the first American who had made this tour ; but, from our guide and the books, I perceive a person, by the name of Schweinitz, from Philadelphia, was here about a year ago : his name is German, and, I believe, he himself was a native of Germany. In Hirschberg, I hear there have been, within a few years, several Americans.

I shall not have room here to tell you of the visit to the Riefenkoppe ; and it is, besides, so material an incident of our journey, that it deserves a letter by itself.

Yours.

LETTER XI.

*The Riesenkoppe, or Giant's Head—Sunrise
—Grand Prospects—Description of the
Riesenkoppe, the Chapel upon it, and of
the surrounding Regions—Rivalry between
the Bohemians and Silesians.*

Hirschberg, 7th August 1800.

THE reason which induces travellers who purpose a visit to the *Riesenkoppe*, to pass the night before at the Hempel's baude is, that they may ascend the mountain in the morning, early enough to see the sun rise from its summit. Such was our own intention; but when we rose at two o'clock in the morning, L—— found herself suffering so severe a headache that she was obliged to give up the idea of going with us; and I set out accompanied only by Whitcomb and our guide. We had at first a steep and painful ascent for

about twenty minutes, then a gentle sloping downwards, and a plain for a quarter of an hour, until we came to the immediate foot of the particular hill which bears the name of the Giant's Head. The darkness of the night had been gradually dispersing, and the borders of the horizon at the east gradually reddening from the moment when we left the baude, so that I was apprehensive the *queen* of day, as Zöllner on a similar occasion calls the sun, would shew his glowing face before we should reach the summit, and to avoid this disappointment doubled the usual pace of ascent, and in another quarter of an hour stood at the door of the chapel on the top of the mountain. About ten minutes after, the great luminary rose in all his glory, from the lower cloud which bordered the horizon; for although the weather was remarkably fine for this region, the sky was not perfectly clear, and a murky vapour hung upon the atmosphere, which intercepted a part of the immense extent of territory

which would otherwise have been within the compass of our vision. I had heard so much of the apparent magnitude of the sun's disk when seen rising from this spot, that when I came to view it I found it less striking than I imagined; it appears about the size of a large coach-wheel; but the same effect may at any time be produced by looking at it through a telescope.

The prospect from this spot is of course more extensive than from any other point upon these mountains; and its grandeur is augmented by the circumstance that the eye can range freely, bounded only by the horizon on every side. The spectator has but to turn on his heel, and all Silesia, all Saxony, and all Bohemia, pass in an instant before his view; it is therefore truly sublime; but as it has the defect usually attendant upon sublimity, of being indistinct, and in some sort chaotic, the lover of beautiful objects must content himself with a smaller elevation. A painter at Hirschberg, by the name of

Reinhardt, who is employed by the Academy of Sciences at Berlin to paint views of the most remarkable spots in this province, observed to me, that from the highest mountains there was nothing *picturesque*, nothing that he could employ as a subject for any one of his paintings.—When on the Schneekoppe, I felt the force of his remark; for when the eye embraces at once such an extent of objects, it perceives only great masses; whereas, all the pleasure that painting can afford is by the accurate representation of details.

The proper Giant's Head is of a conical form, and the surface of the summit is not more, I think, than an hundred yards in diameter; its perpendicular elevation is about six hundred feet, and the path by which it is ascended forms nearly a regular angle of about 45 degrees: the ascent would indeed be too steep to be practicable, but that when the chapel on the top was built, in the year 1668, a flight of stone steps was made to assist the traveller in mounting to it, of

which a sufficient part remains to give no small assistance. The mountain itself appears to be a solid block of granite, upon which there is no appearance of vegetation, unless a kind of red moss, resembling rust upon iron, which grows on the loose stones that cover it on every side, may be so called: these loose stones, part of which are of granite and part of a species of white flint, are in such abundance that they wholly conceal the side of the mountain itself. On one side of the path: as you approach the top, a precipice of about 1500 feet opens, by the side of which you continue to mount; it ends at the bottom in a narrow vale of perhaps a mile in extent, along the course of which are scattered a number of peasants' huts. Here too it looks as if the body of the mountain had been riven at a single stroke, and the rocks which stand on either side correspond in such a manner as to resemble the teeth of a saw. Opposite the summit, to the westward, is a mountain somewhat

lower, called the Little Koppe, from the foot of which is a sloping grass-plot that goes by the name of Rübenzahl's pleasure-garden; other remarkable spots within the view are called his meadow, his pulpit, his grounds, &c. : the whole neighbourhood is full of his name. I asked our guide to tell me honestly whether he had ever seen him; but he thought I was joking him, and said that he had not only never seen him, but had never believed in him; that the Silesians had never given credit to the stories about him; all of which had been believed and circulated by the Bohemians alone. I suppose a Bohemian guide would have assured me that it was merely a Silesian superstition, which his countrymen had always derided.

The chapel at the summit is a small round building, partly of laths, partly of stone, and not more than twelve or fifteen feet in diameter; it was built by a Count Schafgotsch, whose descendant still owns the whole range of these mountains, and is the

richest subject in Silesia ; the number of his vassals is said to be upwards of 35,000. The chapel is dedicated to St. Laurence, and the Cistercian monks at Warmbrunn are obliged to perform the mass in it on the saint's day, and upon four other feast-days annually.

After passing about an hour and a half upon this spot we thought it time to descend once more to the habitable regions of the earth, but when we had got about half way from the bottom of the mount to the baude, who should we meet but L——, whose headache had left her as the day advanced, and who, after coming so far, had determined at all events not to return and leave the most important object upon our whole tour unseen ; I turned back of course, and went up a second time with her. It was now about eight in the morning, and the sun had risen so high as partly to disperse the vapours which had intercepted the view at my first ascent. The mountain now appeared fami-

liar to me as an old acquaintance; and the temperature of the air upon it was so uncommonly mild, that we might have dispensed with putting on our cloaks. It has so happened that the three or four days which we have spent upon the mountains have proved to be among the very warmest of the year; and excepting the few minutes before sunrise this morning, the cold has in no one instance been troublesome in scarcely any perceptible degree to us; we had indeed taken the precaution to be very warmly clad, and, as we were advised, have never been without thick cloaks to put on whenever the occasion should require.

Sentiments of devotion I have always found the first to take possession of the mind on ascending lofty mountains. At the summit of the Giant's Head my first thought was turned to the Supreme Creator, who gave existence to all that immensity of objects expanded before my view. The transition from this idea to that of my own relation,

as an immortal soul, with the Author of Nature, was natural and immediate; from this to the recollection of my native country, my parents and friends, there was but a single and a sudden step. On returning to the hut where we had lodged, I wrote the following lines in the book:

From lands beyond the vast Atlantic tide,
 Celestial Freedom's most belov'd abode,
 Panting, I climb'd the mountain's craggy side,
 And view'd the wondrous works of Nature's God.

Where yonder summit peering to the skies,
 Beholds the earth beneath it with disdain,
 O'er all the regions round I cast my eyes,
 And anxious sought my *native home*—in vain.

As to that native home, which still infolds
 Those youthful friendships to my soul so dear;
 Still you, my parents, in its bosom holds;
 My fancy flew, I felt the starting tear.

Then in the rustling of the morning wind,
 Methought I heard a spirit whisper fair;
 "Pilgrim, forbear, still upwards raise thy mind,
 Look to the skies; thy *native home* is there."

But, as you will probably think these lines of too melancholy, or even too gloomy a cast, take the verses written by my immediate predecessor in the book, which may, perhaps, restore the tone of your spirits.

Es ist alles eitel !

Auffer nur drey stück allein,
H bſche mädchen, guter wein,
Und ein volles beutel.

Had ich die, ſo bin ich froh,
Und ſprich auch mit Salermo,

Es ist alles eitel !

Upon taking our departure from the baude, we thought the charges of the landlady rather extravagant ; and upon asking her, in the mildest manner, how they came to amount so high, she flew into one of the most violent passions that ever deformed an individual of the softer sex, and stormed in such a manner that a fury might have taken lessons from her. Our guide afterwards told us, that the reason why we found her so ill-tempered was, because her husband had yester-

day given her a severe flogging, and she had not yet recovered from the ruffling of her disposition.—Simple! virtuous! happy patriarchs!

At no considerable distance from this hut are two lakes or ponds, the water of which is deep and clear, and which contain some fish; we visited one of them as we returned to the place at which we left our cart. This spot we reached at about eleven in the morning, and proceeding immediately thence through the Warmbrunn, arrived again at Hirschberg at three in the afternoon.

You have now an account, probably more circumstantial than you would have wished, of our excursions upon the Giant Mountains, which, although in point of elevation they cannot stand a comparison with those of Switzerland, and much less with those of South America, still yield an ample compensation of pleasure for the toil and trouble of ascending them. There are travellers who think to give themselves an air of courage

and importance, by representing parts of this tour as dangerous; but, in truth, with the use of common prudence and precaution, there is no more danger than in walking the streets of any city. The roads have, indeed, been within the last month somewhat mended, upon the expectation that the Queen, who in the course of ten days is expected at Warmbrunn, will be disposed to make the tour of the mountains. They have been made less inconvenient, but there was really no danger to remove.

There are two remarkable changes in the face of the country as you ascend. From the bottom of the mountains, about half way up, the ground is covered with tall, majestic trees, chiefly pines and firs, which gradually dwindle in size and height until in the middle region they can no longer be called trees, but shrink to a shrub of an extraordinary kind, which, I believe, is commonly called dwarf-pine: it goes here by the name of knee-wood, in allusion to the

height which it seldom exceeds. The stem is sometimes about the size of a man's leg, and it spreads round its branches, something in the shape of a large lustre, so as to be at least sixty feet in circumference. This bush grows up as high as what is called the *kamm*, or back of the whole range of mountains; and the boundaries between the two provinces are shewn by a narrow lane, cut between these bushes all along the ridge. The region above this consists entirely of the naked rock, without a trace of any kind of vegetation.

We have had repeated opportunity to observe the sentiments of national aversion and rivalry between the neighbouring Bohemians and Silesians. At the Bohemian glass-works, one of the men who shewed us some of their best specimens of cut-glass, boastingly said to us, "You have seen nothing like this in Silesia." And upon our return, a glass-merchant at Warmbrunn shewed us a large wine-glass, with a landscape cut upon it,

very beautifully executed, though done more than a century ago. "You saw nothing like this at the glafs-works in Bohemia," said he. By the story I have related, concerning the old dispute respecting the source of the Elbe, you will perceive that these neighbourly jealousies are of a more ancient date than the period when the two provinces belonged to different and rival soveraigns.

LETTER XII.

*The Lutheran Church at Hirschberg—M.
Reinhardt the Painter—Stohnsdorf—The
Stangenbusch and Prudelberg Hills.*

Hirschberg, 9th August 1800.

SINCE our return to this place we have indulged ourselves with a few days of rest. The morning after we came back, I went over the Lutheran church, which is the handsomest building in the town, and makes a conspicuous figure in all the views from the neighbouring hills. It is built in the shape of a cross, is painted white, and roofed with red tile: these colours shew to great advantage here, as they contrast so well with the dark hue of the mountains, which always form the back ground of the scene. The churchyard is spacious, and built almost entirely round with stone porches, within

which are the family vaults of the inhabitants. The inscriptions upon the tombstones are numerous, and generally long ; and the purport of most of them is to tell the passenger that the person beneath was an honest linen-trader : the most storied urn can scarcely ever say more. I have remarked here, and in two or three other churchyards in this country, a practice which I had never observed elsewhere—a single tombstone serves for a husband and wife ; whichsoever of the two dies first, the inscription is made for both, only the date of the survivor's death is left in a blank, to be filled when the event happens.

As they were singing the morning prayer within the church, just at the time of my stroll thither, I went in and looked it over. The ceilings are painted in a style of mediocrity, with scenes of the resurrection and ascension of Christ. On the two sides of the altar are full-length portraits of the Emperors Joseph I. and Charles VI. who

granted the permission for building this church; and around the walls, as is customary in Lutheran churches, the pictures of all the clergymen who have been its ministers are hung.

One of our visits, since we returned, has been to the painter Reinhardt, whom I have mentioned to you before. He paints annually two landscapes of remarkable views in Silesia, for the Academy of Sciences at Berlin. He has lately sent the two, which will appear at the next exhibition in the autumn, and has now at home only two or three partly finished pictures of his own. Ten of his Silesian views have been engraved and coloured at Berlin, four of which I have taken, as they exhibit together the whole range of the Giant Mountains. I hope one day to have the pleasure of shewing you upon them the remarkable spots we have visited.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. Reinhardt went with us to Stohnsdorf, a village, with a

chateau belonging to a Count Reufs, and remarkable for two hills, from one of which there is one of those extensive, varied, and beautiful prospects, of which there seems in this country to be no end; and the other is curious for forming a sort of rocky labyrinth, in which enormous masses of granite seem as if they had been tumbled together in the most extraordinary positions; now forming a large cavern, where one rock, supported by others at various points, serves as the roof of a chamber, perhaps twenty feet square, and twelve feet high; now a sort of covered way, under which you pass in a narrow lane, between two vast rocks, over which another is laid like a bridge. These hills are called the Stangenbusch, and the Prudelberg.

As we came home last evening the sky was perfectly clear. The sun had sunk behind the hills to the westward of us, but still shot his level rays across the vallies between them; and as they fell upon the high

mountains to the eastward, painted their sides with colours varying from deep purple to a light pink ; so that while we ourselves were already in the shades of evening, we could perceive them glowing in the mild radiance of the luminary, which seemed to play round them with delight and to quit them with reluctance. Such an enchantment of colouring I do not remember ever to have seen before.

Yours affectionately,

LETTER XIII.

*Sugar-refining at Hirschberg—Beet-sugar—
Lahnhaus—Lahn—St. Hedwige—Warm-
brunn—Linen-bleaching—Linen-trade—
Silesian Hospitality—Schmiedberg.*

Hirschberg, 10th August 1800.

YESTERDAY morning we went over the sugar-refinery, which has been established here since the year 1787; it belongs to a company, and the property is divided into shares, which are held by the inhabitants of different towns and villages, all along the mountains. In this district they have an exclusive privilege, and there is only one more establishment of the kind in the province, and that is at Breslau. The buildings employed in the business here were given to the company by the late King, and being

upon a small elevation near the walls, are a great ornament to the town. They receive their raw sugar from Hamburgh and Stettin, and refine quantities sufficient not only for the use of this neighbourhood, but for exportation to a large amount. The principal curiosity they shewed us, however, was a specimen of the new sugar produced from the beet or turnip, which I have mentioned to you in a former letter. They have made here a few loaves of it, which in external appearance are equal to the very finest sugar from the cane; but it is neither of so close a texture, nor so sweet to the taste. They sent, about two months ago, two loaves of this sugar as samples to the King, who returned them a very gracious letter of thanks, and an elegant gold medal as a reward for their industry. The gentleman who accompanied us, and who is one of the directors of the company, assured us it was impossible to make this sugar under double the price which that from the West Indies amounts to. From

a quintal of the vegetable they can make only four pounds of fine sugar.

We likewise made an excursion to Lahnhaus, the seat of a Baron Grünfeld, at two German miles from the town. It is situated upon a steep hill, from which we had some of the most beautiful prospects that have yet been exhibited to us. At the foot of the hill is the little town of Lahn, which you will find upon the map, with the Bober winding round it. The seat itself is fitted up in the modern taste, with hothouses, and gardens, and arbours, and summer-houses, and fountains, all which shew some taste in their arrangement, though nothing to be compared with a nobleman's seat in England. On the summit of the hill, behind the house, are the ruins of an old castle, the most romantically situated of any that I had ever seen. It was built about the year 1250, by Henry the Bearded, Duke of Silesia, whose wife appears to be more celebrated than himself. Her name was Hedwige, and she is

known as a saint in the Roman calendar. The Catholic church at Berlin, you know, is dedicated to her. From the inscriptions on her pictures, of which there are two here in the Catholic church at Lahnhaus, it should seem she was fainted for having repeatedly gone up the hill, on foot, to hear mass there : at present the proprietor and all his vassals, consisting of the inhabitants of six villages in the neighbourhood, are Evangelics ; but they are all obliged to hear mass said once a year in this church, which joins close upon the Baron's house. Nor are the Lutherans suffered to make any use of the church during the rest of the year ; not even to say the service of the dead, who are buried in the yard round the building. Saint Hedwige, one would think, would have been more charitable, if the story which the tattling old servant, who went round the place with us, related, be true. - According to him she was that famous example of conjugal affection, of whom all the world has heard ;

who, upon the castle's being taken after a long siege, obtained leave of the enemy's general to carry off her most precious effects; and under that denomination, took upon her back, to the astonishment of both armies, and of all posterity—her husband.

This morning I attended the religious service at the Lutheran church. The house was very full, chiefly of country-people from the neighbourhood. The service was like that I had heard last Sunday at the village of Seydorf, and partakes at once of our manner in the congregational churches, of that used by the church of England, and of the Roman Catholic mass. The sermon was more than half an hour long, and consisted of an exhortation to the hearers not to murmur at the dispensations of Heaven. It was delivered with great distinctness and precision, without notes, but with so much method in the treatment of the subject, as evinced that it had been fully studied beforehand: the style and manner were very plain,

without any flourish of oratory, or any grimace of action. There was a large proportion of singing in the service, and the whole congregation joined in it. This adds so much solemnity to these acts of devotion, that I wish the practice were adopted among ourselves.

After church, we went, by invitation of Mr. Hefs, the gentleman who accompanied us yesterday to the sugar-refinery, and who is one of the principal merchants of the town, to dine at the public table at Warmbrunn. It is in a very elegant building, erected within these two years, by Count Schafgotfch, for the accommodation of the company who attend at the baths. The company at dinner amounted to about thirty persons, with none of whom we had any acquaintance, but all of whom we found very civil and conversible. Twice a week, on Thursday and Sunday, they have balls; but the style of society is such as cannot be very agreeable to the ladies: next to the ball-

room is an apartment, as full of smokers and smoke, as a Dutch coffee-house; and the door between the rooms is constantly open. On one side is a billiard-room, and on the other is the den of the gamblers, all which is going on at the same time with the ball, which usually begins at five in the afternoon, and ends at nine or ten. They are making great preparations at Warmbrunn for the reception of the King and Queen, who are expected there this day week.

After dinner, Mr. Hefs took us with him to a bleachery of linen, belonging to himself, at a house in the country, about a mile from Warmbrunn. He shewed us two tubs, each containing about four hundred pieces of linen, soaking in water with a mixture of soap and of potash; for they make no use of any acid for the purpose here. In these tubs they usually keep the linen over-night; and in the daytime stretch it over a grass-

plot, near the house, to dry in the sun. The ground is furrowed, at distances equal to the width of the linen, the more effectually to drain off all the moisture. After whitening a sufficient time, it undergoes the process of fulling and of mangling, both of which are performed by water-mills, under the same roof.

The materials of which the linen is composed, usually pass through four distinct and separate hands, before they come to the merchant for sale. The flax is raised by the peasant, on his own account, if he is the possessor of a farm, or for his lord, if he is in a state of vassalage. He breaks and combs the flax, and sells it in a state proper for spinning, to the spinners, of whom the weavers in their turn purchase the thread, which, after being woven into linen, passes from them to the bleachers. In general, the bleacheries belong to the merchants themselves, but otherwise there is no connexion,

other than that of buyer and seller, between the several trades employed in the work. With the most favourable weather, a piece of linen cannot be fully whitened in less than ten weeks.

A large proportion of their exports of linen, before the war, was to Cadiz, from which they were shipped to the Spanish colonies. Since the blockade of Cadiz this trade has, in a great measure, been broken up. At present, they send great quantities to Hamburgh, and even to England, of which no small proportion finally goes to the United States. The exportation of linen from the whole province amounts to about a million sterling, annually ; of which, one quarter part, at least, is sent from Hirschberg.

We had heard much, before we left Berlin, of Silesian hospitality, and, in general, find the character well deserved. We have every where found the most obliging attentions, and the strongest disposition to satisfy, in every respect, our curiosity. In some in-

stances, this kindness has been carried so far, as to become troublesome; but this is far from having been the case with the civilities of Mr. Hess, to which we had no sort of claim whatever. We happened, accidentally, to meet him at Mr. Reinhardt's, when we went to see his paintings; and he recollected having once dined with me at Mr. Schickler's in Berlin, a year or two ago. He has considered this as giving us a sufficient title to all his attentions, which, from that time, have been unceasing.

Schmiedeberg, 12th August 1800.

Yesterday afternoon we concluded to proceed upon our journey, and quitted, not without reluctance, the pleasant town of Hirschberg, where we have so agreeably passed a fortnight. The whole way hither is over a most romantic valley, through fields, loaded with luxuriant harvests, interspersed with hills and groves, country-seats, and villages, and bounded on one side by the range of

mountains, of which you have so often heard in these letters. The road is a turnpike, not inferior to the best in England. These turnpike-roads, which extend all along the highway, through what are called the mountain towns, were made by Frederic the Second, who always treated this province as a favourite.

Schmiedeberg is a small city, containing between three and four thousand inhabitants. It is about a German mile in length, and consists of one street, in which there are many very handsome buildings ; in both these respects it has a considerable resemblance with the town of Salem in Massachusetts. The principal manufactures here are of table-linen and of printed linens. I hope to give you some further account of them in my next.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XIV.

Schmiedeberg—Linen, White Tape, Table-linen, Creas Manufactories—Buchwald—The Friesenfiene.

Schmiedeberg, 13th August 1800.

UPON our arrival here, I hastened, immediately, to deliver a letter I had for a Mr. Hoffman, the clergyman of the place. Unfortunately for us, he was obliged to go early yesterday morning to Hirschberg. He, however, requested his friend, Mr. Frederici, to shew us the objects deserving a stranger's curiosity here, which he has accordingly done. They consist, principally, of linen manufactures, of various kinds; a business which, in proportion to the size of the place, is carried on with more activity here than at Hirschberg. The town contains, at most, five thousand inhabitants;

and their exportations amount to about a million dollars annually.

One of the principal merchants of the town is a Mr. Waldkirch, who is at this time employed in erecting buildings, sufficient for bleaching from twenty to twenty-five thousand pieces of linen, yearly. For this purpose, he has one large house, in which he hangs up to dry the linen which has passed through the bleaching-tubs, instead of stretching it, as is usual elsewhere, upon a grafs-plot. He gains, by this, the advantage of being able to perform the process of drying, the whole year round, and is no longer dependent upon the season and the weather. He is likewise introducing here, from Ireland, the use of oxygenated muriatic acid (I am not chemist enough to know precisely what it is), to whiten the linen the better. Here, likewise, we saw the process of dressing the linen, by passing it through a tub of starch; the object of which is, to give it stiffness, and a gloss to the eye; but

which they have not been accustomed to here, and which they say, perhaps with truth, is rather injurious than beneficial to the linen.

Another large manufactory is that of white tape, belonging to Mr. Gebauer, which is likewise a recent establishment here. It is a linen manufactory in miniature, the whole process of making it being exactly the same. This, however, is more properly a manufactory, as the weaving, as well as the bleaching and dressing, is done here. There are between thirty and forty looms at work; and in each loom, from fifteen to thirty-six pieces of tape are made, in proportion to the width, which varies from about three inches, to a quarter of an inch. The machine by which so many shuttles are set in motion by one loom, is an English invention, as is, without exception, every contrivance for the abridgment of labour, which we have yet seen in this province.

The weaving is likewise performed in the manufactories of printed linens and cottons,

and of damask table-linen. The printed linens are principally handkerchiefs and shawls; the figures upon which are partly painted by women, and partly made by wooden moulds, the surface of which is first laid upon the colours, ready prepared, and then applied to the linen. In cotton they work very little; and what they make is very much inferior to the English.

The table-linen is inferior in quality, and higher in price, than that made in Saxony. This manufactory does not thrive here, and would soon go entirely to ruin, but for the particular encouragement of the government. The damask is made either of linen altogether, or with a mixture of silk, of which they make a sort of table-cloths, much used within the country, but not exported elsewhere.

Another article of manufacture, that we have met here, is what they call creas, a sort of linen, made of yarn, instead of thread, and bleached before it is wove. The distinc-

tion between yarn and thread is not owing to the difference of the article from which they are spun, but to the manner of spinning: thread is twisted in spinning; yarn is spun out, simply, and consists only of one part. This name of *Creas* is Spanish, as are those of *Platilles*, and *Estopilles*, by which the different sorts of linen and lawn are designated. Some of the pieces, too, are called *Bretagnes*, and they are rolled up *à la Morlaix*; because the *Spaniards* were, formerly, furnished with those articles from manufactures established at *Morlaix*, in the province of *Britanny*. The *Bretagnes* are small pieces of linen, containing just enough to make two shirts, and done up in flat squares, much as you have been used to see cambrics, in our shops. Mr. *Waldkirch* told me that they were obliged to send them in such pieces, because the *Spaniard* is so lazy, that he must even have his linen cut up for him, before he will buy it. The pieces *à la Morlaix* are of sixty *Silesian* ells,

and rolled up very close, as round a spindle. —What they call *Platilles royales* are done up much like the Irish linen; folded, and tied round with bands of stiff paper, ornamented with a red riband, at one end, and stamped figures upon silver plating, to make it very showy: the love of finery being as strong in the common Spaniard, as his laziness. This same disposition, of judging every thing by the eye, makes it necessary to give the linens, likewise, a fine gloss; and various inventions are used for the purpose: among which, a machine used by Mr. Gentsch, another principal merchant of Schmiedeberg, most attracted our attention. It is put in motion by the means of wheels, which are turned by water, like a common water-mill, and four thick plates of glass, of a circular form, and round edges, are made to pass backwards and forwards, over as many pieces of linen, which, by the same process, are made to unroll and pass under

them. They really give it a beautiful gloss; but, from the extreme pressure they apply to it, must be hurtful to the article itself. Undoubtedly, the linen is in its most perfect condition, as it comes from the peasant's hands, when the flax has undergone only the operations of spinning and weaving.— If nothing further were done to it, there can be no doubt but it would last double the time. The whole business of bleaching, fulling, mangling, and glossing, is but a continued effort to make the article look fairer, and, at the same time, to rend its texture: it is the art of a prostitute, who paints the deeper, the more she is racked with disease.

About an English mile distant from Schmiedeberg lies Buchwald, the seat of Count Redern, who has the superintendency over the mines in Lower Silesia, a man of great information and merit, with whom I had some acquaintance at Berlin. It is what in England is commonly called an orna-

mented farm ; and the grounds are laid out altogether in the English taste. Nature is, indeed, here so extremely beautiful of herself, that she will condescend to receive very little decoration from human ingenuity. Here are lawns, and grottoes, and cascades, and running streams, and parks, which scarcely require any thing more than enclosure, to make English gardens. The inside of the house, and many of the Count's arrangements, with regard to his grounds, we could not see, owing to his present absence : he being gone to Waldenburg, to make preparations at the mines for the reception of the Queen.

Near the road, upon the way between Schmiedeberg and Landeshut, are three vast masses of rock, at the top of an high mountain, which bear the name of the Friesenstiene. The prospect from them is not much less extensive, on the Silesian side, than that from the Giant's Head. The whole valley of

Lower Silesia extends before them; the views from the Kynast to the westward are, here, renewed from a northern point, and the whole range of great mountains runs easterly, and seems to depart from the spot upon which the spectator stands.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XV.

*Landeshut—The Convent of Gröfsau, its
Church and Library.*

Landeshut, 15th August 1800.

AFTER having seen the various objects of curiosity at and near Schmiedeberg, of which you have here a short account, we came the day before yesterday to this town. The distance is the same as that from Hirschberg to Schmiedeberg, two German miles; but the ride is longer, as the whole way is a continual succession of up and down hill. The road continues to be very good, and almost every hundred paces as we proceed some beautiful prospect presents itself to our view.

Landeshut is one of the oldest towns in Silesia; and though it has not more than half the population of Schmiedeberg, being built more compact, it appears to be larger.

In the middle of the town, as in almost all the Silesian cities, is a square, in the centre of which stands the town-house. The houses all around the square have piazzas before them like those of Covent Garden in London, or the arcades of the Palais Royal at Paris. One of the houses in the square is always an inn; and as the square is the centre of all the business, and the place where all the markets are held, the traveller has always before him an appearance of activity, which makes the town look lively. The houses are built, as in Holland, with the gable-end towards the street; but they are almost all covered with a white plaster, which gives lightness and gaiety to the appearance of the streets, and has a very advantageous effect when viewed at a distance. From the tops of the houses very large wooden troughs as spouts run out into the street, so that the water which falls from them may just hit the gutter. They look like so many old beams sticking out

from the roofs, and are so great a deformity to the streets, that I wonder they have not been by degrees removed, and more seemly spouts substituted in their stead. Landeshut has at three different periods—in the war of the Hussites in the fourteenth century, in the thirty years war, and in the seven years war—suffered every extremity of sacking, plundering, and fire. In point of opulence, however, it is now the second of the mountain cities ; and its exportation of linens is inferior in amount only to that of Hirschberg.

On my arrival I delivered a letter to Mr. Ruck, one of the first linen-merchants in the place, a Saxon by birth, but who has long travelled in England and Holland. His wife is the daughter of a Mr. Peter Hafenclever, a man whose name must be well known in America, particularly in the states of New York and New Jersey ; where, just before the commencement of the American revolution, he established very extensive iron-works ; an undertaking in which

he failed, however, by the misconduct and dishonesty of his partners in England. He then came, together with his daughter and his son-in-law, and entered into the linen-trade here; in which they have prospered so well, that at his death he left a handsome property, and Mr. Ruck is now in the first line of business in the province.

Yesterday morning Mr. Ruck, who is a very respectable old gentleman of seventy-five, came in his carriage, and took us with him to the cloister of Grüsau, a convent of monks of the Cistercian order, situated in a beautiful plain about a German mile distant from the town. The abbot, whom they call here the prelate, was absent; but one of the monks, a young man who both in mind and person seemed fitter for almost any place than a cloister, received and attended us with the most obliging kindness.

This cloister was founded in the year 1292, by Bolko the Second, Duke of Schweidnitz and Jauer, a descendant of the great Polish

family of the Piaſts. They have, in a chapel here, a ſarcophagus erected in honour of him, with a Latin inſcription purporting, that from the brevity of his ſtature he had borne the ſurname of *Parvus*; but that if he were to be eſtimated by the abilities with which he governed his dominions, he would be entitled to that of *Magnus*; if by his affability, his charity, and generoſity, *Longe Major*; and if by his liberality to the church, moſt eſpecially in the foundation of this convent, *Vere Maximus*. Here is a double climax, of which the higheſt term will doubtleſs appear to you choſen with a ſagacity which would do honour to a Jeſuit.

The ceiling of the church is painted, ſo as to give an airy and light appearance to the whole, although the paintings themſelves are in a ſtyle of mediocrity. There are a few pictures by Willman, whom they call the Sileſian Raphael; and they certainly poſſeſs merit much ſuperior to the reſt. One of the altar-pieces, the young monk who

accompanied us said, was good for nothing, because it was a lie. It meant to represent an assemblage of all the saints, and there were only monks and priests. One of the events which happened at the convent in the Hussite war is represented both in painting and in sculpture. It was the murder of the abbot, and of all the monks, to the number of seventy. The destruction was so complete, that, to preserve the foundation itself, they were obliged to draw several monks from another convent.

The organ is the finest in all Silesia, and contains about two thousand six hundred pipes. The organist played for us about half an hour; the tones are strong and clear, but the imitation of the human voice is very imperfect.

Close to the church, appropriated exclusively to the convent, is another, which they call the parochial church, built by one of the abbots about seventy years ago, and dedicated to St. Joseph, the foster-father of

Christ. It is painted in fresco on the ceiling, and round the walls, entirely by the hand of Willman. The scenes are from the history of Joseph's life, and many of them are more creditable to the imagination than to the judgment of the painter.

The library consists of about twenty-five thousand volumes, which are kept in a light pleasant chamber, and arranged in excellent methodical order. It contains all the great collections of the fathers, the Acts of the Saints, Councils, &c. The *Acts of the Saints* is a work which I had never seen before; the method observed in this compilation is by giving the acts of each saint under the title of the day devoted to him in the calendar. There are forty-six thick folio volumes, and they have yet reached only to the middle of September.—The last volume was published at Antwerp, about the year 1754, and probably the work will never be carried any further. Muratori's great collection of the Italian historians is likewise here; but they

have not that of the Byzantine writers. They are likewise entirely destitute of modern books; and, excepting the German, of all books in the modern languages. I saw only two manuscripts; one written by a Russian general during the seven years war; the other a copy of the Koran, upon parchment. The number of monks at this convent is now only thirty. The foundation is very rich, and there are about forty thousand peasants in vassalage under it.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XVI.

A Silesian Dinner—Lutheran Church at Landeshut—Ecclesiastical Affairs of Silesia—Gottesberg—Stocking Manufactory—Waldenburg—Traffic in Linens—Coal-mines.

Waldenburg, 16th August 1800.

FROM the cloister at Grüsau (the day before yesterday) we returned to dine with Mr. Ruck, at Landeshut. It was a formal dinner of thirty persons, according to the fashion of the country; we sat down soon after one, and rose from table just before six. The whole of this time is employed in eating; for the ladies and gentlemen all rose together, and there was very little wine drank. But as only one dish is served at a time, and in a dinner of three courses every dish must be handed round to every guest,

the intervals between the dishes are of course very long ; the usual time of sitting on such occasions, we are told, is about seven hours, but it was here abridged out of complaisance to us. After dinner we walked in the garden, and coffee was served in an arbour, where we sat some time and conversed. As evening came on, the company sat down to cards, and played until eleven, when a cold collation was served in another room. We were now permitted, as strangers, to return to our inn ; but the rest of the company continued at their cards and the collation until half past twelve. This is the usual course of a great dinner in Silesia. The company consisted of the principal linen-merchants, and the Lutheran clergy of the place. Among them I found men of agreeable manners and of considerable information, but none of them spoke any other language than German. In general throughout Silesia speaking French is considered as an affectation of high life, and a sort of ridicule is

cast upon it; so that many who are well versed in the language scruple at speaking it even with a stranger. For myself, I like this so much the better; it forces me to make a trial of my strength in German, and affords me some help in the acquisition of this language.

Yesterday morning we went to see the Lutheran church at Landeshut, and its library; the church is built exactly upon the same model as that of Hirschberg, though not so large, nor, like that, decorated with paintings. The library is small, and consists chiefly of theological books; its principal curiosity is a manuscript volume containing original letters from persons of distinguished name in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; among the rest are a few from Luther, and many from his friend and assistant Melancthon.

The number of Catholics and of *Evangelics* throughout Silesia is nearly equal, but in all the manufacturing parts of the province

the proportion of the Catholics is much smaller, scarcely of one to ten. The archbishop of Breslau is the only Catholic prelate in the province, though before the Prussian conquest the abbots of the great cloisters at Gröfau and Leubus, and perhaps others, were members of the states. There are no Lutheran bishops; but the ecclesiastical concerns are under the superintendency of a *consistory* at Breslau, subordinate to the minister of justice at Berlin, who presides over the whole ecclesiastical department. The salaries of the Lutheran clergy are very low, none of them amounting to two hundred Prussian dollars a year.

After viewing Mr. Ruck's bleachery, which differs very little from those we had seen before, we came yesterday afternoon three German miles from Landeshut to this town. The country still continues to be enchantingly beautiful, and the roads excellent, though very hilly. When we had come about two thirds of the way we passed

through the little town of Gottelberg, and before almost every house saw women, boys, and girls, industriously employed in knitting worsted stockings, of which that is the principal manufacturing place. Thus, upon almost every mile of our passage, we behold industry with a different, and always with an useful occupation. But it is always a great alloy to the satisfaction we receive from this prospect, that it is accompanied with that of wretchedness. The poor people who are thus continually toiling, can scarcely earn a sufficiency for their bare subsistence, and are subjected to various heavy oppressions. The manufactories of linens, in particular, which raise large fortunes to the merchants who export them from the cities, scarcely give bread to the peasants, who do all the valuable part of the work.

Here at Waldenburg, the inn where we lodge is, as usual, situated in the ring, or public square, which I described to you in my last; and this being a market-day, we

have had all the forenoon a crowd of peasants under our windows, each of them with one or two pieces of linen in a bag, standing and waiting for a purchaser. The merchant offers his price, and if it is agreed to, marks it upon the piece of linen, which the peasant then carries to the purchaser's store, and receives his money. But it is said that the merchant often marks the linen with the price he offers, even when the seller refuses to let it go at so low a rate; and, as the peasant cannot efface immediately the mark of the chalk, he scarcely ever can obtain, from a subsequent purchaser, any more than he fees has been offered for the piece before. Thus the price is made dependant, in a great degree, upon the will of the purchaser; and the peasant, who feels himself by the iniquitous constitution of civil society a degraded being, subdued alike in soul and body, has neither the spirit to resent, nor the right to claim redress against this abominable imposition. This morning we called up one of

these peasants from our windows, and asked him the price of the piece of linen he had under his arm. He said, six dollars. It was, doubtless, at least a dollar more than any of the merchants would have given him; but I was disposed to see what would be the effect of giving him his own price, and told him we would take it. He no sooner saw what accommodating traders he had to deal with, than he began to extol the excellency of his linens, and to urge me to give him more than he had asked. This I refused; and though the poor fellow had certainly sold his goods higher than he had expected, I am afraid he went away rather regretting that he had not demanded more, than pleased that he had got so much.

We have this day visited the coal-mines, which are within an English mile of the town. A subterraneous canal, the entrance into which reminds one of the poetical descents of epic heroes to the infernal regions, conducts one to the spot whence the miners

draw the coal. You go down in a boat, flat-bottomed, about a yard wide, and ten feet long: the canal is not more than four feet wide, and equally deep, and over it is an arch about as high, hewed in many places through the solid rock; it is nearly an English mile long, and strikes deeper and deeper under ground, until the surface of the earth overhead is more than a hundred and fifty feet above you. The boat is pushed along through the canal by two men, one standing at each end, who, with a short stick in the hand, press it against the sides of the arch that goes over the canal. After you have advanced about two thirds of the way, you come to lanes, which open on one side, and lead two or three hundred yards to the places where the coal is cut out from the side of the mine; but we could not see the miners at work this day, because they were employed in exercises for a solemn procession, which is intended, in compliment to the Queen, who is expected here next week.

This water communication from the surface of the earth to the bottom of the mine, which so prodigiously facilitates the transportation of the coal from its original dungeon to the regions of day, is an English contrivance, very recently, and with some reluctance, adopted here. The further we go, and the more we see, the greater reason we have to be convinced that England is the country where genius and science have been the most successfully applied to the improvement of the arts and manufactures.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XVII.

*Altwasser — Fürstenstein — Count Hochberg
— Friedland — Aderßbach — Extraordinary
Scenery.*

Waldenburg, 17th August 1800.

BEFORE we fet out upon this tour from Berlin, we had heard a great deal of Silesian hospitality; and, from our reception and treatment from the moment when we entered the province, you will judge how amply this character is deserved. We have had occasion to see more of it this day. Mr. Jöpfer, the burgomaster of the town, to whom we had a letter of introduction, invited us this morning to breakfast with him and his family at Altwasser, a bathing-place, about an English mile out of the town, at which he has a country-house; and, according to the custom of the country, sent his carriage to take

us there. It is a charming spot, in a valley, furrounded by hills, and in a situation which probably contributes, more than the waters, to restore health to the visitors of the place. The taste of the water resembles that of Seltzer water, but contains not so large a quantity of fixed air. Mr. Jöpfer, I find, as well as all the other great linen-merchants in the mountain-towns, has made the experiment of opening a trade directly with America; and, like all the rest, he is not satisfied with the success of his speculation. The brothers —, two of whom were here personally about two years ago, and a Mr. —, another German merchant, settled in Philadelphia, procured linens to be sent them to a very large amount, for which they have not yet made their payments. The returns they have made were chiefly in sugar, in coffee, and in bills payable in England, upon all which much loss has been sustained by the great failures last winter at Hamburgh, and by the very low course of exchange upon

London. Mr. Jöpper asked me if I could recommend any mercantile houses to him in New York, Philadelphia, or Baltimore, as perfectly sure houses, to whom he could safely consign linens; and the same question has been asked me by other merchants in these towns; but I have ventured only to name Mr. —, at Boston, and that without knowing whether it would be agreeable to him. I will thank you to send me one or two names of merchants in each of those towns, who do business upon consignments, and who enjoy the most firmly-established credit. But let them be genuine, solid merchants, whose credit is founded upon their character for honesty, and not, as is too common in our country, upon the extravagant extent of their enterprises. I shall likewise be obliged to you to make inquiries what was the situation, in point of pecuniary circumstances, of Mr. —, of South Carolina, when he died; for he owed about four thousand pounds sterling to Mr. Hafen-

clever, who never could obtain the payment of it in his lifetime, and whose daughter has been equally unsuccessful in her applications for it since his decease.

This afternoon we went to Fürstenstein, the seat of a Count Hochberg, who has very large possessions in this part of the country, and to whom, in particular, the town of Waldenburg belongs. The seat is about a German mile distant from the town, situated in one of those beautiful and romantic spots which are still as delightful to us to see, as I am afraid they are by this time tedious for you to hear of. On the summit of a hill, near the house in which the Count now resides, are the ruins of an old castle, which have been partly rebuilt by him, and which, for that reason, scarcely look so venerable as those of the Kynast and of Lähnhaus. This place, however, is so remarkable for picturesque beauty, that it is visited at all times by strangers, as one of the principal objects of curiosity in the province. At present it

is doubly interesting; the day after to-morrow the Queen is expected to arrive at Fürstenstein, where she purposes to spend a couple of nights: for her reception the Count is preparing an entertainment suitable to the character of his ancient castle. On the same hill, and just below the drawbridge over the moat, which is still supposed to surround the building, the ground is measured out and enclosed, where a carousal is to be held in honour of the great visitor. Sixteen knights, all in the costume of the feudal times, are to issue from the walls of the old castle, to go and meet the Queen upon her approach, and escort her to the spot where the exercises of arms, or rather of horsemanship, are to be performed: the evening is to close with a masked ball. This afternoon a preparatory representation (for it cannot strictly be called a rehearsal) of the whole ceremony was given; and as it was necessary for us, in order to get a sight of the exhibition on Tuesday, to pay our respects previously to

the Count and Countess, we took the opportunity at the same time to see this trial, of which we had, doubtless, a much better view than we shall have amidst the immense crowds of people who will throng to the real show. The Count and Countess received and treated us with a courteousness worthy of the real age of chivalry.

Tuesday Morning, 19th August 1800.

Yesterday we took a ride in one of the common postchaises of the country, to Aderfbach, in Bohemia, which is between three and four German miles from this place. The roads have been lately repaired for the accommodation of the Queen; but they are still not such as we could travel in our own carriage. We passed through the small town of Friedland on our way, just beyond which are the boundaries between the two provinces. Aderfbach itself is a small village of no importance; but what makes it remarkable is, that near it begins an immense

range of loose rocks which extend more than three German miles, and which have been thrown together, or loosened from each other, in a manner the most extraordinary of any thing I ever beheld. 'Imagine to yourself a city of the first magnitude, all the buildings of which were from one hundred and fifty to four hundred feet high. Suppose this city to have been destroyed by fire, or by an earthquake, and to have left only fragments of the walls of its houses standing, and all the streets, lanes, and alleys still passable, you will then have the most accurate idea I can give you of this truly wonderful sport of nature. Many of the rocks hang together in large masses, but many of them stand singly, like one side of the wall of a house, and upon bases so excessively small, in proportion to their weight, that they seem to bid defiance to the laws of gravitation. Many of them are thrown into shapes, which bear more or less resemblance to various other objects, of which the names

are given them for the sake of distinction. Thus, there is the Inverted Sugarloaf, the Priest, the Pulpit, the Kettle-drums, the Gallows, the Chimney, the Bridge (which I think must resemble the natural bridge described by Mr. Jefferson in his "Notes on Virginia"), the Church-steeple, &c. In one place there is a waterfall, about as high as the Zackerle-fall, and at present nearly as copious. There is likewise an echo, not much superior to that of the Kynast. We returned last evening to Waldenburg.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XVIII.

*Description of a Carousal and Masquerade
given at Fürstenstein, on the Arrival of the
King and Queen of Prussia.*

Waldenburg, 20th August 1800.

THE shortness of my paper and of my time, yesterday, abridged my description of the natural ruins at Adersbach, one of the most curious objects we have yet viewed upon this journey. As I was closing my letter, the King and Queen passed under our windows, on their way to Fürstenstein: there a double entertainment, combining the fashionable amusements of ancient and modern times, a carousal and a masquerade, was prepared for them.

The carousal was in a style of great splendour and magnificence. The sixteen knights, the herald, and the banneret, were clad, not

in armour, but in the fashionable full dress of the age of Charles V. and Francis I. The ceremonies were performed with rigorous accuracy, according to the usages of chivalry. The exercises of the knights were, in themselves, nothing at all. The highest proof of skill was to take a ring from the hand of a statue, with the point of the spear, upon a horse at full gallop: even this very few of them succeeded in doing. At any riding amphitheatre in Europe, or America, may be seen for half a crown the same things performed with infinitely more skill and address. But the close adherence to the forms usual in the times when knight-hood was in its glory; the pomp and solemnity of the representation; the contrast between the grandeur of the spectacle and the old ruined walls, the relics of five centuries; and between the romantic wildness of the extensive prospect around, and the crowded thousands who were present to see the show; all contributed to produce a pleas-

ing effect. The four most successful knights received medals of different value, proportioned to the degree of the prize they obtained. The Queen hung the medals upon their necks. It was expected, that after the names of the victors had been proclaimed, and the herald had thrice called out to ask if any knight were yet disposed to dispute the prizes adjudged, a strange knight would appear, and enter the lists to renew the contest for the first medal; but this expectation was disappointed.

The masked ball was given in the house where the Count now resides, an elegant and richly furnished modern building, which was illuminated upon the occasion. There were scarcely any masks in character, and no attempt was made by those that were to support it: upon the whole it was very dull. The principal company consisted of the knights, who had performed at the carousal, and their ladies: three quarters of these, to say the least, were dissatisfied at the issue of

the day, in which, as is very common on such occasions, the race was not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong; for it so happened, that the very best riders of the company failed in obtaining any one of the prizes. Thus the countenances in shade, and the multitude of black dominos, with unmeaning or hideous masks, gave the whole rather the appearance of a funeral procession than of an high festivity. We stayed not more than half an hour, and a little after midnight returned to our inn at Waldenburg.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XIX.

Fürstenstein—Freyburg—Peculiarities of the Silesian Mountains and Mountain-towns, and their Inhabitants—Lime-pits near Freyburg—Schweidnitz—Its Defects as a Fortress—Its Convents—Its Privilege of Exemption from Jews—Its Churches.

Schweidnitz, 21st August 1800.

YESTERDAY afternoon we came from Waldenburg, three German miles, to this town. About half way between the two places, we descended from the hill upon which Fürstenstein is situated, and, leaving the small town of Freyburg at our left hand, entered upon a very extensive and fertile plain, which admirably contrasts with those mountainous regions where we have so agreeably passed about four weeks. The mountain-towns, properly so called, are five:

from four of them, Hirschberg, Schmiedeberg, Landeshut, and Waldenburg, my last letters to you are dated. Upon our return, we hope to see the fifth, which is Greiffenberg; and is situated just upon the borders of Saxony. We have now gone through the most interesting part of our journey. The mountain-towns, and the mountains themselves, with their inhabitants, have a peculiar character, distinct even from that of the rest of Silesia, and much more so from that of the other Prussian provinces. Their distance from the sea, and even from all inland navigation, secludes them from that great and continual intercourse with the rest of the world, which, according to Yorick's happy illustration, effaces the appropriate stamp, at the same time that it gives the highest polish to human characters. Accordingly, we find something original and characteristic in almost every individual we meet. As their country is seldom visited by strangers, their hospitality is cordial, warm, confiding, and

carried sometimes so far as would be troublesome, if gratitude could admit any thing to be troublesome which proceeds from such good intentions. The habitual industry, so general among them, preserves them from that excessive poverty and those vices which are prevalent in some countries still more favoured by nature; though even here the comfort of the great mass of the people is so much inferior to what their industry deserves, that humanity cannot contemplate their condition without a sigh of compassion. Yet they have a privilege very unusual in the Prussian dominions, a great and valuable privilege, the worth of which they fully know, and in which they take a proper pride—it is that of having no soldiers quartered upon them, no troops in garrison. This circumstance alone would be sufficient to produce an immense difference between the character of the people here, and that of their less fortunate fellow-subjects. Instead of that perpetual, unvaried, and disgusting view of idleness,

and misery, and vice, with the uniform on the back, and the gun in the hand, it is truly refreshing to the soul to see towns and villages, and I might almost say the very mountain wilds, teeming with active and useful labour. In consequence of this exemption, too, that reverence for the military character, which the policy of the state has rendered necessary in Prussia, extends not here. To go through the exercises and evolutions of a review, is not considered as the most exalted of all mortal accomplishments; nor is an epaulette the golden image before which all the people prostrate themselves in sign of worship. The badges of monarchy being thus remote, and the nobility who reside in the province having generally their houses in the country, the manners of the people in the towns have more of a republican than of a monarchical cast; and the general equality among the people gives them a social turn, which I have seldom seen in other parts of Germany. In every one of

the towns we found some institution of an assembly, where the citizens in comfortable circumstances, with their families, meet once a week, or oftener, to enjoy the pleasures of conversation and social amusements.

Yet, however interesting the sight of this country may be to a traveller passing through it at this season of the year, its attractions are counterbalanced by too many inconveniences to make it an inviting place for a permanent residence. We have had ample occasion to convince ourselves that the representations of the Prussian travellers in these regions, who make Saturnian times roll round again to bless this land with innocence and happiness, are greatly exaggerated, to say the least. Those passions which, in the more closely accumulated societies of mankind, contribute to make human life miserable, being here confined to a narrower sphere, and applied to smaller objects, are still active to make it uncomfortable. The climate, likewise, is at least by ten degrees of lati-

tude more rigorous than that of the same parallel upon level land. Those mountaintops, upon which we were regaled with refreshing breezes, are, almost the whole year round, swept with chilling blasts; those trees which now wave their verdure over the brows of the hills, three quarters of the year stretch forth their leafless branches, as if to implore the mercy of an unrelenting sky; those fields which now seem to exult under the burden of their fertility, six months of the twelve lie bleaching under a thick crust of snow. The transitions from heat to cold, even at the fairest season, are so great, so frequent, and sudden, as often to prove pernicious to the health; and scarcely any of the fruits of temperate regions here enjoy enough of the genial warmth of the sun to attain maturity. Were we to give full credit to Zöllner, the most moderate of the Prussian tourists in Silesia, we should suppose beggars to be a race of beings unheard of on the Silesian side of the mountains, but that the

instant you set your foot into Bohemia, they swarmed round you by thousands. The superior condition of the Silesians is, indeed, very clearly, and even strongly marked in this particular, as the beggars are certainly more numerous on the Bohemian side. But even on the other, *we* were not fortunate enough to pass a single day without meeting more than one beggar; and the train of women and children who followed us to the Zacken-fall, gasping for a dreyer, was as numerous as that which pursued us among the ruins of Aderfbach.

The accommodations for travellers upon the mountains themselves are very miserable; but, in the towns, the inns are rather above the average of public-houses in Germany. Almost every where we found good bread, butter, coffee, milk, and water. The water, indeed, which trickles down the sides of the mountains in ten thousand streams, which you cross at almost every tenth step you take, is so clear and cool, that some self-con-

trol is necessary to avoid drinking it, while you are sweating under the toil of the ascent. The mountaineers, however, take no precautions of this kind, but freely drink from the brooks at the very moment when they are in the profusest perspiration. If I were a physician I should, perhaps, inquire whether the *goitres*, of which we have heard so much upon the mountains of Switzerland, and which are by no means uncommon upon these, are not partly imputable to this carelessness.

Just on this side of Freyburg, upon our ride hither, we stopped, and I went down into a lime-pit which was close by the side of the road: its depth might be about a hundred and twenty feet. At the same place there was formerly a quarry of marble, which is now exhausted. We saw one furnace, in which they were burning the limestone; it was in the open air, like a deep kettle sunk into the ground, upon which they place alternately a layer of coal and a layer

of the stone, which they keep thus continually burning the whole summer through. At the bottom of the pit were small ponds of water, which some of the workmen were employed in pumping out ; there was a machine on the top, like those used under the Adelphi buildings, to answer the same purpose. We saw one large block of the marble which was formerly drawn from the quarry : it was a bluish stone, with a very small mixture of white ; apparently a marble of the most ordinary kind. The works have been carried on about thirty years.

Schweidnitz is a considerably large and handsomely built town, containing about six thousand inhabitants, with a garrison usually of two thousand men. It is chiefly remarkable as one of the three fortresses (Silberberg and Glatz are the two others) upon which the fate of Silesia, in the wars between Austria and Prussia, must always depend. But as the place is situated in the midst of a large plain, and has not even a navigable

river running before it, the natural situation is far from strong; and mere art has never yet contrived a fortification which art is not competent to subdue. Schweidnitz, therefore, has never been able to stand a long siege, and in the seven years war was four times taken and retaken. The Catholics in the town are in the proportion of one to four Protestants. There are four cloisters; but, like most of the Silesian convents, they are almost or entirely without monks or nuns, excepting one of the order of St. Ursula, where seven-and-twenty poor sisters bewail their virginity, and of which my wife can give a better account than I, as the good nuns, according to the rules of their order, hold the male sex too much in abomination to admit any of us, publicly, within their walls.

I am sorry to say that Schweidnitz is not yet ashamed to enjoy the privilege of suffering no Jews within the town. The occasion which gave rise to this ridiculous and barba-

rous regulation is represented in a picture which yet disgraces the Catholic church in the town, under which is a German inscription, narrating the story after the Catholic fashion. It relates, that about the year 1450, certain Jews obtained possession of a consecrated host, which they treated with contempt and indignity, which the picture further explains by representing two of the Jews as stabbing the wafer with daggers, and the wafer, of course, as streaming with blood. For this offence ten Jews and seven of their wives were burnt at the stake, and the town was formally privileged, never again to be contaminated with the presence of a Jew.

This Catholic church was first built by Bolko the Little, the last Duke of Schweidnitz, and the same pious personage whose gradations of greatness were so accurately measured upon the inscription at Grüssau. It has gone through various adventures, and a singular succession of proprietors, and

finally belonged to the Jesuits, until the abolition of their order in 1775. It has the highest steeple in all Silesia, and from which there is an extensive and beautiful prospect over the wide plains which surround the town to the distant mountains, which look like a wall round the horizon.

The Lutheran church was one of the three which were stipulated to be built in Silesia, by the peace of Westphalia; the privilege was granted upon condition that the fabric should only be of wood and plaster, which gives it, on the outside, the appearance of a barn. But, as a compensation for this external restraint, the Lutherans indulged themselves by ornamenting the more profusely the inside of the church; and it is sufficiently spacious to contain a congregation of five thousand persons: it assembles nearly that number in their devotions almost every Sunday to this day. In general we find the churches very well filled on Sundays, in

every town which we had the opportunity to visit at that time.

This morning the Queen passed through this town on her way to Glatz. She was received with much ceremony ; and a procession of twelve pretty maidens, clad in white, went with an address to her, and some small presents. We have spent the day here, partly for the purpose of letting her Majesty get so far before us, as not to deprive us of a lodging-place at the inns, and of post-horses on the roads.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XX.

*Reichenbach—Its new Church—Frankenstein
—Wartha—Its Cloister and Church—
Glatz.*

Glatz, 23d August 1800.

YESTERDAY morning, early, we left Schweidnitz, and came seven German miles, through the towns of Reichenbach, Frankenstein, and Wartha, to this place. Reichenbach is chiefly remarkable for being the place, where the last treaty between Austria and Prussia was concluded; and for a new Lutheran church, the architecture of which is at once the most simple and elegant of any similar building that I ever saw. The church itself is an oblong square; and internally are three oval galleries, one above the other, and all supported by pillars of the Doric and Ionic orders; the size of which

is duly graduated in proportion to their height. The oval of the lowest gallery is complete, but an opening is left in the two upper ones, at one end of the church, for the organ. The altar is enclosed within a semicircle, formed by six Ionic pillars, supporting a canopy, and between which are four emblematical statues. The pulpit is just over the altar, a little backwards, and not, as is usual in most European churches, on one side of the edifice. The building is of stone, plastered white, and within the church there are no paintings. It was erected in the year 1795.

At Frankenstein we saw the walls of an old castle, which have been more than a century and a half in a ruinous state. In general, there is scarcely a town in all Lower Silesia, but bears, to this day, some mark of desolation from the thirty years and the seven years wars.

Wartha is situated in a deep valley, between two ranges of steep and lofty mountains,

with the river Neifs winding round between them. Its position is so beautiful, that several of the painters of Silesian views have chosen this spot for one of them. It is a very small town, distinguished only for a cloister of the Cistercian order, in which there are now not more than four or five monks. The church belonging to the cloister is large, and celebrated for the fine proportions of its architecture, as well as for the best organ in Silesia, excepting that of Grüssau. It contains no paintings of value, but I remarked a great number of *ex voto* pictures, dedicated to the holy Virgin, principally by persons recovered from sickness. In one corner of the church I saw an ugly picture of a face, done upon silk, and a small silver point of a spear, each of them under a frame and a glass; with certificates that they had been touched by certain holy relics at Rome and Ancona; such as the real face of Christ, and the spear which pierced his side. It should seem, that, according to the Romish system, these real relics have a certain mag-

netic virtue, and that any thing touched by them becomes as efficacious as themselves. While I was looking at the unseemly mask, a woman, after kneeling, for some time, before the great altar, came, and devoutly kissed the glass that covered the face, and then tripped away as lightly as if she were sure all her sins were forgiven.

By stopping a day at Schweidnitz we had hoped the Queen would get such a start of us upon her tour, that we should no longer find a difficulty in procuring lodgings, or horses, on the road, owing to her presence; but upon arriving here last night, we found she had been from this place to Landeck, in the morning, and was expected to return and lodge here again, which she really did. The town was, of course, much crowded, and we are obliged to content ourselves with worse than usual accommodations. This morning at six the Queen took her departure for Breslau.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXI.

*Landeck—Its Baths and mineral Waters—
Beauty of its Environs—The River Biele
—Waterfall at Wölfelsgründe—Ruins of
the Town of Habelschward.*

Glatz, 25th August.

THE governor of the town being absent with the King, who was holding a review at Neifs, I sent my compliments on Saturday morning to the *commandant*, with a request to see the fortress, which had been mentioned as the only thing worthy of remark that we should find in this town; but he took so much time to deliberate, whether in the absence of the governor he could give us the permission, that I concluded that day to go on Landeck, which we did in one of the common carriages of the country. Landeck is a small town three German miles

distant, with baths and mineral waters, which are much frequented by company in search of health or amusement during the months of July and August. Now there is scarcely any body there, but our landlord at the inn told us there had been much company before the King and Queen came into Silesia, and expressed a hope and belief that after the review at Breslau many of them would again find leisure enough to be sick, and come to bathe and drink a little more. The bath waters are about milk-warm; those they drink are cold and clear as crystal, but so much impregnated with sulphur, that they taste like bilge-water. Whatever their efficacy may be, I have never seen any bathing-place, the situation of which had an appearance more calculated to preserve or restore health than Landeck. It is in a valley, surrounded by hills more or less elevated, some of which are still covered with forests of stately trees, while others present the aspect of cultivation to their very summits.

On the side of one of these hills are the two baths; the church; a large and elegant house built by the Governor of Glatz; another, less spacious, built by the Count Hoym, the directing minister of Silesia, for his son-in-law Count Maltzahn; the saloon or hall, in which a table d'hôte is kept, and a few apartments for the accommodation of the bathers, and various other buildings. Upon another hill, about half a mile distant from the baths, is a sort of temple, built likewise by Count Hoym, which occasionally serves for a dining-room, as it did on Friday to the Queen, when she visited Landeck. All the wood is left upon this hill, which is only laid out in walks, with here and there a square or circular open plot with stone benches, upon which the weary faunterer may repose. About the centre there is a pyramid erected upon a high basis of cemented stones, dedicated to the protecting deity of the grove. In the valley at the foot of these hills the river *Biele* rolls rapidly

along its penurious stream, which, like all the other rivers in this country, would in America scarcely be dignified with the name of a brook. Near the baths are several glass-shops, and workmen who grind and cut glass; the article itself is made at Friedrichsgrund, three miles beyond Glatz. It is much better than that of Warmbrunn, and about equal to the Bohemian glass at *Neuwelt*, though nearly double its price.

That pleasing and continual interchange of hill and dale, of wild rocky mountains and green meadowy vallies, of thick tall gloomy forests, and harvest-laden fields, which has given us so much pleasure from the moment of our departure from Bunzlau, has been as striking on the road to Landeck as in any part of our journey. But there the roads practicable for our carriage, and all the pleasant part of Silesia, end. We have already discovered, by the increasing wretchedness of the inhabitants, by the gradual degeneracy of the inns, and by the growing

proportion of Catholics, that we were fast approaching the borders of Upper Silesia and of Poland. Beyond Landeck we had been assured before we left Berlin that we should find very little for instruction, and nothing for pleasure. We had therefore fixed that for the bound of our outward excursion; and having on Saturday evening and yesterday morning satisfied our curiosity with a view of what was remarkable in the place, between eleven o'clock and noon set out upon our return. But we doubled at least the distance of the way, and more than trebled it in the badness of the roads, by going to see the waterfall at Wölfelsgründe. If you have ever stood at the edge of a precipice two hundred feet steep; with your arm round a tree, about as big as itself, shooting out from the side of the abrupt, to hang over and look down upon a sheet of water that pours in a beautiful arch from a rock eighty feet downwards, and dashes in snowy foam upon another rock; or if you have ever stood

at the bottom, in the narrow cleft between two high mountains which look as if they had been split asunder at one stroke of an Almighty hand; and there, in the thrilling coolness of a spot which never beheld the radiance of the sun, with the silvery spray sprinkling your face like dew, looked up to the massive fragments of rock over which hang the steep declivities of mountains clad with dark, lofty, majestic trees, rising in rows behind each other, like an amphitheatre; if you have seen and felt all that a scene like this inspires, but which would disdain to be conveyed by descriptive powers infinitely superior to mine, then, my dear brother, I am not afraid of your inquiring whether I have not had enough of waterfalls. That of Wölfelsgründe is about the same height as the Kochel-fall, but has a much greater effect than either of the three we had seen before, being much better supplied with water.

We had not been fully aware of the dis-

tance and badness of the roads we had to travel, and made it later before we left Landeck than we should have done to return at night to Glatz. It was eleven at night before we reached the gate, and found they had been shut at ten, after which they never admit any body into the town. We were therefore obliged to take up our quarters at an inn without the walls, and come into the city this morning. Upon our return we passed through the ruins of what one week ago was the town of Habelschwerd; last Monday it was burnt to ashes, and we now found nothing but the walls of the houses more or less in ruins. A few houses without the walls, and a church, have been spared, amidst the general devastation. Before the doors of these houses were numbers of women and children, apparently robbed of their habitations, and only housed by the charity of their neighbours. Here and there in the streets, amidst the heaps of rubbish, or within the shells of the houses, a solitary forrowing

form seemed lingering on the spot of its former residence. Before the crucifix at the gate a child of twelve or thirteen years of age was kneeling, probably to implore a shelter of that Being whose dreadful visitation had taken away the roof from over her head. The gloom of this dismal scene was heightened by the dusk of evening, as we passed through these relics of calamity, and made it altogether one of the most melancholy sights I ever beheld.

LETTER XXII.

Excursion to the Heufcheuer, among the Mountains—Wünschelburg—The Hour-bell.

Wünschelburg, 25th August 1800.

THE fatigue of our yesterday's ride was so great, that we concluded to stay a day or two to rest at Glatz. And since the achievement of L—— in ascending the Riesenkoppe, she has not much taste for climbing mountains. There is one, however, in this part of the country, called the *Heufcheuer*, or *Barn*, from its resemblance at a distance to a German barn, which is visited by most curious travellers, and which of course I could by no means neglect to see. I therefore took a chaise and postillion, and came alone this afternoon three German miles from Glatz to this little town, which lies at the foot of the mountain. Here I am to

stay till about two in the morning, and then, *if the weather is fair*, proceed upon my pilgrimage. I have before mentioned the inconvenience to which all travellers here are subjected, in their unavoidable dependance upon the weather. We have been in this particular remarkably favoured hitherto, but the present aspect of the sky is not promising for the success of my expedition. Poor W—— has had rather a severe attack of his annual fever and ague, so that we were even obliged to leave him behind at Glatz, when we went upon our excursion to Landeck. He is better to-day, but I would not expose him to the fatigue of climbing the Heuscheuer with me, nor of being jolted in in a kind of cart, over bad roads, to come here.

I reached this little town, which contains only eighty-six houses, just in time to hear the nine o'clock bell ring; a custom unusual in this part of the world, and which brought my own country, and particularly Haverhill,

to my mind. There is another custom of a similar kind which prevails in most of the oldest towns of Silesia. A trumpeter blows his trumpet for a minute or two from the tower of the town-house, immediately after the clock has struck every hour. This practice has its inconveniences, and it would be difficult at this day to say of what use it can be. It probably originated at a time when clocks were not in general use upon public buildings, and might then serve to proclaim the hour. It is now continued merely because it is established, and, like many other usages, has long outlived the purposes which it was intended to answer.

One small but very teasing inconvenience to which *you* know how much travellers in most parts of Germany are subjected, they are relieved from in most of the Silesian towns—it is that of being accosted at the entrance of every town, by a man with his musket and bayonet in the hand, and that hardly civil question of, “Who are you?”

in the mouth, at the head of a string of others, which compel you to give an account of your life and adventures to a man, whom you might naturally take for a Roman legionary in the days of Plautus—who affirms that it is not in the power of the gods themselves to make a polite foldier. From these tedious and disgusting examinations, you are altogether exempt in the mountain towns, because they have no garrisons. But when you come to the fortresses you have to run through a whole gauntlet of them, as if the soldiers meant to take there a full indemnity for all the opportunities of vexation which have been denied them. At Schweidnitz I was obliged to go four times through the process of detailing my name and character, with suitable explanations, to make the inquirer understand how it was possible I should not be a *Count*, or at least that my name should not begin with a *Von*, before I could get within the walls of the town.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXIII.

*The Heuscheuer—Leyersdorf—Carlsberg—
Views from the Top of the Heuscheuer—
The Church at Almendorf—Eckersdorf—
Count Magné.*

Glatz, 27th August 1800.

WHEN I closed my letter to you, yesterday morning at two o'clock, from the appearance of the weather in Wünschelburg, I had very little expectation of seeing the sun at the summit of the Heuscheuer. At about three, however, I set out, accompanied by my guide, with his lantern in his hand, for it was still dark as midnight. For two hours and a half I went constantly ascending, excepting one or two spots of plain land, upon each of which, a small cluster of houses is situated—one called Leyersdorf, and the other Carlsberg. These plains are

cultivated, and, at this moment, are covered with a harvest of rye, oats, and flax, which come to maturity very late, at such an elevation, and have a very indifferent appearance. Carlsberg is at the summit of the mountain, and at the foot of the rocks which properly bear the name of the Heuschauer. These I suppose to be about three hundred feet high; most of them rise perpendicularly from the top of the mountain, and between many of them are crevices from one to two feet wide, which extend from the top to the bottom. These rocks would be inaccessible, but for flights of wooden stairs, which are placed in several of the steepest places, for the assistance of the curious traveller. By this help I was enabled to attain the summit of the highest rock, which is railed round, by way of security. Otherwise, very few persons could venture to stand upon it: as it is not more than six or eight feet square, and it

almost always blows there like a storm. Such I found to be the case. In my haste to reach the summit before sunrise, I had left my guide so far behind me, that he did not come up for more than a quarter of an hour after I had got to the spot ; and as he had my great-coat in his hand, I was obliged to creep under the side of a rock until he came, for a shelter from the violence of the tempest. The sun had risen perfectly clear, about a quarter of an hour before, and gilded with his radiance all the mountain-tops around. The prospect to which my eye could extend, was wider even than that I had seen from the Giant's Head, because the atmosphere was much clearer. This range of rocks extends about eight or ten English miles, and begins, and ends, so abruptly, that it looks as if it were a crown upon the head of the mountain on which it stands, and which is otherwise not higher than those that run from both ends of the Heuscheuer. The highest pinnacle, from the form of the rock,

is called the Grandfather's Chair. The latitude of the spot, $50^{\circ} 28' 25''$, and the four cardinal points, are cut in the rock, and likewise the dates when the late and present Kings of Prussia had visited the place. A large marble medallion is also laid into the side of one of the rocks, with an inscription, purporting, that the late King was there, and some poor adulatory verses in his honour. From the highest point of these rocks, to the level of the sea, is about three thousand feet.

Upon my return to Wünschelburg, the burgomaster of the town paid me a complimentary visit, with many offers of civility, which I was obliged to decline, being in haste to come back to Glatz. By lengthening my way a little, I had an opportunity of visiting the church at Almendorf, and the seat of Count Magné, at Eckersdorf. The church has formerly been celebrated as a place of pilgrimage, for possessing a miraculous image of the Virgin Mary. On the

festivals dedicated to her, processions of six, eight, and ten thousand people, have been very frequent here, coming from every part of Silesia and Bohemia. They are still very numerous, though, like most other relics of the Catholic religion, rapidly upon the decline. The history of the church is shortly this. In the year 1218, a peasant, by the name of Jann, being stone-blind, happened to pass before a hollow lime-tree, and was instantly restored to sight, by an irradiation proceeding from it; which, upon inspection, he found issued from a small image of the holy Virgin, in the hollow of the tree. Of this fact there can be no doubt; for it is represented in a picture, that hangs immediately over the spot where the lime-tree stood. A chapel was soon after built over the place, for the preservation of this wonder-working image; and, about the beginning of the last century, the chapel was enlarged to an elegant and magnificent church. The miraculous image is still kept in a glass frame, over

the great altar. Many a hundred thousand of poor blind people have, in the course of six centuries, repaired to it, for health; but of its efficacy to heal their diseases there is no testimony here. They have, probably, all returned, at least as blind as they came. In order to increase the solemnity and duration of the processions, within the church itself, and all round the village of Almen-dorf, are little chapels; containing sculptured representations of the life and sufferings of Christ, at each of which, the processions stop to kneel, and pray, and kiss the holy relics, still exposed at each of these stations. The most remarkable of these relics, is a wisp of the straw upon which the infant Jesus lay, in the stable, immediately after his birth. It is under a large iron plate, with a small square hole in the centre, through which a half an inch length of the straw may be seen. The iron plate is almost worn and rusted away, with the kisses of the pious blind people, who be-

lieve in its authenticity. I was attended by one of the clerical persons who officiate at the church; but he was so ashamed of his relics, that I perceived it gave him pain, when I read the inscriptions round them, purporting what they are; and I therefore ceased indulging my curiosity in this respect. He repeated, several times, that the authenticity of the relics was extremely questionable; and, in particular, declared his own conviction, that a wisp of straw could not be kept in preservation, from the time of Christ's birth, until the present. Mass is performed in this church every morning, and was begun while I was there. The organ is small, and the organist was not very skilful. The singing was likewise indifferent. Opposite the church, within the village, there are a number of small shops, for the sale of beads and tapers, and other articles of necessary use at processions.

Count Magné is one of those very wealthy noblemen, fifteen or twenty of whom pos-

sefs almost all the province of Silesia. He has several seats, in different parts of the country; and last week received and entertained the Queen at one of them, in a village called Ullersdorf, between Glatz and Landeck. His usual place of residence is at Eckersdorf, where he has a handsome seat and garden, with hot-houses, containing many of the fruits and plants of distant and warmer climates. But it is chiefly remarkable for his cattle and sheep, to the breeding and management of which, the Count has paid special attention. He mingles the breeds of sheep by importing rams from Spain and from Padua. He sells about twenty thousand dollars worth of wool annually, at a price about fifty per cent. higher than the common wool of the country; that is, at twenty Prussian groschen a pound. Some of his sheep he has sold at thirty dollars apiece, and they all go at double the ordinary prices. During the winter season he keeps the sheep constantly under shelter, in barns,

the doors of which are left open on all sides. In summer they are turned into the fields only in the daytime. The Count himself is now absent, and I was shewn about the grounds and garden by a French abbé, the preceptor of his two sons, who were at home.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXIV.

*General De Favrat—Glatz—Its Fortrefs,
 &c.—Wartba—Frankenstein—Silberberg
 —Its Fortrefs, &c.—Jordan's Mühle—
 Zobten—The Zobtenberg—Breslau.*

Breslau, 30th August 1800.

ON my return to Glatz, from my excursion to the Heufcheuer, I delivered a letter to the governor of the place, a Lieutenant-general De Favrat, a native of Savoy, who entered into the service of Frederick the Second in the year 1758, immediately after the battle of Hochkirch, and at the time when Frederick's affairs appeared to be in the most desperate situation. The General, who was even then no novice in war, for he had been present at the battle of Fontenoi, in 1745, is now about seventy, with all the liveliness and pleasantry of twenty-five. From the

moment when I delivered the letter until that of our leaving Glatz, every instant of our time was employed by the obliging attentions of this gentleman; and, until our arrival here, I have not had so much as a spare hour to finish this letter.

Wednesday morning, the 27th, we went just out of the walls of Glatz, to see the entry of the two regiments and one battalion of grenadiers, who compose the garrison of the place, and who had been to the review at Neyfs. After this the governor accompanied us to the fortress, situated upon a steep hill, on one side of the town. It has always been one of the strongest places in the country; but was taken by the Austrians in the year 1760, owing to the cowardice of the commandant. At the peace in 1763 it was restored to Prussia; and since that time several millions of dollars have been expended upon it to make the fortifications still more inaccessible. They shewed us the place in which Trenck was first confined, and from

which he made his escape. Within the last three years a place has been erected near the top, to lodge about eight hundred men, and of such thickness and solidity, that the troops within would be altogether safe if the place were bombarded. At the summit there is a watch-tower, from which we had a delightful prospect on all sides. The whole country of Glatz was within our view, bounded by a circle of mountains which separate it from Bohemia, and Upper and Lower Silesia. It resembles an immense kettle, and is so called by the people of the country. Upon the watch-tower is a statue of St. John of Nepomuk, the patron of Bohemia, which Frederick the Second ordered to be placed there, with the face turned towards that country ; a circumstance which gave infinite satisfaction to the Catholic common people here, and contributed much to reconcile them to the domination of the arch heretic. A large circular table is likewise kept on the top of the tower, with the names of all the

villages in the country, placed exactly in the direction in which they stand from the place; the purpose of which is, to know in case of fire immediately where to hasten with assistance.

After dining with the governor and his family, we took our final leave of Glatz, and came the same evening through Wartha to Frankenstein. The next morning, Thursday the 28th, we went a German mile and a half to see the fortress of Silberberg, the strength of which they compare here to that of Königstein. It was built at an immense expense by Frederick the Second; and, together with the places of Schweidnitz and Glatz, must prove a strong barrier against invasion from the side of Bohemia. The commandant, who had been notified by General Favrat of our intention to visit the place, treated us with great politeness, and shewed us as much of the fortress as the weather, which this day, for the first time since we have been upon this tour, was very unfa-

vourable, would admit. The works extend the length of three English miles, upon a number of neighbouring hills. The prospect from the highest point is more extensive, and equally beautiful with that from the fortrefs of Glatz. The commandant shewed us, likewise, a model in wood of the whole fortrefs, which is usually kept in trunks, in separate pieces ; but was put together a few days ago for the inspection of the King on his visit here. The commandant told us he scarcely ever allowed any body to see it except ladies, because he was sure they would never betray such secrets. I told him, what I suppose he had already perceived, that they might as safely be intrusted to me as to a lady ; but as the view of the model gave me a much more clear and precise idea of the whole fortrefs than that of the works themselves, I could readily conceive why he should be unwilling to shew it to persons better versed in the science of fortification than myself. We dined with him at the

house which, in time of peace, he occupies in the town of Silberberg. This is a small city, consisting of one hundred and thirty houses, and nine hundred inhabitants, on the side of the hill upon which the principal fortification stands. It has its name from a silver-mine which was formerly worked there, but which has long since been exhausted. After dinner we returned to Frankenstein, and proceeded thence, four German miles further, to a little village called Jordan's Mühle.

Yesterday morning, Friday the 29th, at three o'clock, I went alone on horseback one German mile to the town of Zobten, where I took a guide and went up the Zobtenberg, a mountain from which the view is the more extensive, because it stands almost alone in the middle of that immense plain which I mentioned to you in my letter from Schweidnitz. The weather was again less favourable to me than I could have wished, and would not indulge me with that glorious prospect

of the rising sun for which I had ascended the mountain at so early an hour. I was therefore obliged to content myself with the view of a widely-extensive cultivated country, interspersed with numerous towns and villages, among which I could distinguish the greater part of the places which, during the last five weeks, I have visited with so much pleasure. The Zobtenberg is, however, the lowest of the several mountains we have ascended upon our tour, and the most easily climbed: it is possible to go to the summit even with a carriage. There is a chapel on the top of this mountain dedicated to the Holy Virgin, and near it are the almost imperceptible ruins of a castle, built by Count Peter the Dane, a name much celebrated in the Silesian and Polish histories: he lived in the twelfth century. I returned to Jordan's Mühle at about ten in the morning, and immediately after we continued our route towards this capital of Silesia: we came five German miles over an excellent road, and arrived here at three in the afternoon.

Yours.

LETTER XXV.

Breslau.—Its Inhabitants—Religion—Cathedral.—Bishop's Palace.—Churches.—Libraries—Curious Manuscripts—Paintings, &c.

Breslau, 2d September 1800.

BEFORE we left Berlin to come upon this tour, we were advised not to pass through Breslau at all. It was said to be a large old city, resembling all other great cities, and containing nothing that deserved the attention of travellers; we had, therefore, not put it down upon the original list of our route. But, when we found ourselves in the course of our excursion within a few miles of it, we thought, after making so long a tour round the whole province, it would be shewing the capital too great a mark of contempt to neglect it altogether,

and concluded to give it a few days of our time upon our return. - We have no reason to repent of this final determination; for, although the place is, as it had been described to us, nothing more than a large, old, and very dirty city; and although the weather, since we came into it, has been constantly such as to confine us a great part of the time to the house, we have still met with objects of curiosity sufficient to amuse and employ the few days we have devoted to the place.

Breslau contains upwards of sixty thousand inhabitants, of whom about one third are Catholics, and nine tenths of the other two thirds Lutherans. Yet, from the vast number of churches and cloisters which present themselves to the stranger's eye in every quarter of the town, a person without further information would take it for a place entirely Catholic. Nine of these churches suffice for the Protestant inhabitants; the Catholics, of course, have twenty-six; many of which are, however, cloisters; and the streets are

full of friars of all colours, “ black, white, and grey, with all their trumpery.”

The two principal churches are the Catholic cathedral and the Lutheran church of St. Elizabeth, both of which we have visited. The cathedral, as it now stands, was built about the year 1150, and is principally remarkable for several magnificent chapels, which have been added to the body of the church by several of the former bishops. It contains relics, too; for what is a Roman Catholic church without relics? That of most note here is the staff of St. Elizabeth, with a silver spiral plate winding round it, upon which is engraved some account of her and her family. She was a daughter to a king of Hungary, born in 1207, and died 1231. She was canonized in 1235; but whether, like St. Hedwige, for going on foot up a hill to hear mass, or for what other cause, does not appear. A part of the head of St. John the Baptist (for they have not here, as in many other churches,

the whole head), and his fore-finger, are only shewn upon great festivals. Upon one of the altar-pieces they have a skeleton, decked out with abundance of finery, which they keep under a glass frame: they are the hallowed bones of St. Theodore, whose legend I have not the happiness of being acquainted with. This church has several monuments of fine sculpture, particularly a statue of St. Elizabeth, in the chapel dedicated to her, which is very much admired: it has likewise many paintings, the best of which are the twelve Apostles, done at Rome, though our attendant could not tell us by whom.

We likewise saw the inside of the Bishop's palace, which he is rebuilding in a style of princely magnificence. It is situated near the cathedral, on the banks of the Oder, commanding at once a beautiful prospect of the town and the country round. The see is not dependant upon any archbishopric, but immediately upon the Pope. Before the

Prussian conquest, the Bishop had frequently been an Archduke of Austria: the present prelate is a Prince of Hohenloe.

We saw another Catholic church belonging to a convent of Augustine nuns, in which, however, we found nothing worthy of remark. The Lutheran church of St. Elizabeth itself looks more like a Catholic than a Protestant house of worship. It was built some centuries before the Reformation, and still contains several altars, at which certain masses were founded: these masses, by an agreement between the two religious parties, are now celebrated in the cathedral church by the priests, who have previously been authorized to say them by solemnities at the original altars.

There are, likewise, libraries belonging to most of the churches and cloisters; but none of them are of great value, excepting that in the church of St. Elizabeth, which is a public library, the foundation of which was laid about a century ago, by a person of the name

of Rhediger, whose name it still bears, though very much enlarged by several considerable donations. It contains, besides many large and costly compilations in print, a number of valuable manuscripts, among which is a copy of Froissart's Chronicle, in four large folio volumes, written upon parchment, and adorned with a great number of coloured drawings, executed in the best manner of the age when it was written. Its date is of 1468, and it contains about one third more matter than the printed edition of Froissart, whose editor thought it expedient to omit every thing which he thought would not redound to the honour of the nation. I asked Mr. Scheibal, the present librarian, why he did not publish an edition of the book from this genuine manuscript? He said that such things could be undertaken at this time only in England, and that the work in Germany would not pay the expense of the publication. We were shewn another manuscript of a very different kind,

though perhaps not less curious. To the naked eye it appears to be a drawing with a pen of the Venus de Medicis, upon a half sheet of folio paper: by looking at it through a magnifying glass, you find it is a copy of Ovid's Art of Love, perfectly legible, and the whole five books within a compass of ten inches in length and three in width. There are various other curiosities of a similar nature; a few valuable pictures, particularly one portrait by Rembrandt, and one of Luther, by Lucas Cranach; collections of medals, of marbles, of marine shells, of minerals, &c. This library is open twice a week for the use of the public: like most other public libraries in Europe, it is crowded into too small a room.

At the Magdalen, which is likewise a Lutheran church, there is also a library, but of so little consequence, that Mr. Manso, the librarian, a poet of distinguished talents and learning, did not think it worth while

to shew it. We only saw, therefore, the collection of paintings belonging to it, among which there are some copies from Rubens and Rembrandt, and many good original pictures, especially landscapes, though by painters of inferior name.

Yours affectionately.

LETTER XXVI.

Breslau—Churches, Halls, and Colleges of the Jesuits—Public Schools—Scheidnich, the Seat of Prince Hobenlobe—Trade of Breslau—Manufactories of Sugar, Turkish Yarn, and sewing Needles—Cannon-foundery.

Breslau, 2d September 1800.

THE church and other buildings belonging to the college of Jesuits are among the most remarkable objects of curiosity at Breslau. The university was founded in the year 1702, by the Emperor Leopold, and the buildings were begun upon so large and expensive a plan that they were not completed in 1740, at the period of the Prussian conquest; and as a great part of the funds appropriated to the works then ceased, they have remained unfinished. One of their

houses the government took away from them; and at the time when the order of Jesuits was abolished in the year 1774, the university here was continued under the title of a royal school institution. The principal apartments are two churches, one large, and magnificently decorated; the other a small one, where occasionally sermons are preached to the students in Latin; the Leopoldine hall, where all the public disputations are held; and an astronomical observatory at the top of the building, which has been erected within these few years. The philosophical and astronomical apparatus is small; the only instruments we saw were Newtonian telescopes, caustic mirrors, a micrometer for measuring the distance of the stars, a quadrant with a meridian line, an air-pump, and a couple of electrical machines. From the observatory there is a very fine view of the vast plain in which Breslau is situated, and of the distant mountains by which it is bounded, all which we saw with double ad-

vantage through their excellent perspective glasses. The number of students at this college is about six hundred ; that of the professors is seventeen. Their course of studies comprehends a period of eleven years, five of which are devoted to the ancient languages, three to philosophy, and three to theology ; but under the term philosophy they embrace almost every object of human science. The professors are all paid from the appropriated funds, and the instruction is given free from all expense.

There are public schools likewise connected with the churches of St. Elizabeth and Mary Magdalen ; the first of which has about twenty professors and teachers, and three hundred students. The instruction here is only preparatory to that of an university.

About an English mile out of the town, are the country-seat and gardens of Prince Hohenlohe, the governor of Breslau. The place is called Scheidnich. The gardens are

spacious and agreeable, and always open to the public ; they contain various small monuments, erected by the Prince in honour of Frederick the Second, the late and present kings. Last week he gave the King and Queen, upon their visit here, a splendid entertainment, at which the gardens were finely illuminated.

Breslau is a place of considerable trade, and has much more an appearance of business and activity than Berlin. The most essential articles of its exportation are broad-cloths and linen, the latter of which, however, the merchants here all draw from the mountain towns. Nor do they manufacture, themselves, a quarter part of the broad-cloths which they send abroad. Their situation, watered by the river Oder, which gives them an immediate communication with Hamburgh and Stettin, naturally makes them the centre of the commerce of the province. They have likewise some trade over land with the East, which is carried on by Russian

caravans; which, from the description that has been made to us, we regret not staying here long enough to see.

There are no manufactories of importance in the town. The sugar-refinery is indeed very large, and having to supply the greater part of the province, refines sugar to the amount of several millions annually. Like that of Hirschberg, it belongs to a company, the property being divided into shares, originally of seven hundred dollars, but which are now worth more than three thousand.

We have visited two other manufactories which had been mentioned to us; one, of what they call Turkish yarn, because it was formerly made only in Turkey; and the other of sewing needles. The yarn is spun from cotton, imported by the Russian caravans from the East, and dyed red. The difficulty consists in the dying, an operation of which cotton requires much preparation to be made susceptible, not having, like wool,

a natural oil, which imbibes the colouring particles, and facilitates the work. This yarn, when dyed, is used to weave in a mixture with linen. I mentioned having seen one such manufactory at Schwiedeberg.

The needle-manufactory is principally remarkable, as it is one of those in which the division of labour is carried to the greatest extent. Every needle must pass through seventy-seven hands before it is fit for use. But the needles made here are much inferior to those of the Low Countries, of Munster, and Aix-la-Chapelle, and bear no comparison with the English.

The most common ornaments of the rooms and chambers in this country are busts, portraits, and imitations of antique basso-relievos in stucco, or plaster of Paris. We have scarcely entered a house in Silesia without meeting more or less of these; and we have here been to the workshop of a man who makes them. He takes good likenesses, and the work is very cheap.

There is a cannon-foundry here, but the works are all for the account of the King, and for the last two years they have had nothing to do. It resembles in every respect that which you saw at the Hague.

I have dined once in a society founded upon the same principles with the Cassino at Berlin. Here it goes by the name of the *Resource*, and consists of more than two hundred members. The company at dinner was mixed, as is usual at such places; chiefly officers of the army. I was seated next to a General Lentken, who told me he had been forty-eight years in the service, and in the seven years war had received a wound for each year. The scars upon his face and hands testified to the truth of what he said. You will readily conceive that when you have once entered upon the topic of the seven years war, and Frederick the Second, with a Prussian general, you are in no danger of lacking materials for conversation. I found that of the General, of

course, very amusing, though his circle of ideas and of information appeared to have been extremely cautious of spreading beyond the line of his business;

“ And little of this great world could he speak,
More than pertains to feats of broil and battle.”

Yours affectionately,

LETTER XXVII.

Leuthen—Neumarcht—Liegnitz—Family of the Piaßs—Military School—Broad-cloth Manufactory—Goldberg---Its Woollen Manufactories---The Capallenberg.

Hirschberg, 5th September 1800.

AFTER a tour of nearly four weeks, in the course of which we have visited most of the places worthy of remark in the province of Lower Silesia, we are once more here upon our return, which we concluded to take through Dresden and Leipzig. In my former letters from this place, you have seen how much we were pleased with it, and it is with no small satisfaction that we have now an opportunity of renewing our visit here, and of taking a last parting view of these enchanting prospects, and of the lofty Giant Mountains.

We left Breslau on Wednesday the 3d instant in the afternoon, and came that night four German miles to Neumarcht. About half-way there, we passed through the village of Leuthen, near which we were shewn the spot where, on the 5th December 1757, was fought the famous battle which bears the name of that place. Of the thirteen pitched battles won by Frederick the Second, in the course of his reign, this was the most decisive, and, to him personally, the most glorious. Upon the event of that day, more than upon that of any other, the existence of Prussia as an independent power depended. The victory was complete over an enemy whose numbers more than doubled his own; and it was so entirely owing to the superiority of Frederick's tactics, that Guibert says, his troops can scarcely be allowed to share the honour of it with him.

From Neumarcht, a small fortified town distinguished only for the cultivation of tobacco and of madder in its neighbourhood,

we came yesterday eleven German miles, through Liegnitz and Goldberg, to this town. It is the greatest distance I ever remember to have travelled in one day in Germany, though we stopped a couple of hours in each of the towns we came through, to see what there was remarkable in them; but the roads are all turnpike, nearly, if not quite, equal to those of England; and we have now no longer the same inducement that we had six weeks ago to lengthen out purposely our progress through the country, for the sake of enjoying the beauties of a land laden with plenteous harvests. They are now all gathered, and even the most fruitful soil has the bare and solitary aspect of a desert. The only views of abundance which are still to be seen are the orchards of fruit-trees, and I have already told you that this country is not remarkably favoured in the production of fruit; there is little to be seen excepting apples, pears, and plums.

Liegnitz is a considerably large fortified

town; it was formerly one of those governed by its own sovereign dukes, and was one of the places to which Frederick the Second had some pretension when he ascended the throne; to give validity to which, he began the war which ended by his conquest of all Silesia. There is a magnificent building still there, which formerly was a Jesuits' church and college. Only two of them are now left; of the spacious church the walls and roof alone remain, and they threaten a speedy ruin. A small chapel containing the bones and the monument of the last Duke of Liegnitz and his family will fall with the church. The inscription upon the monument erected by a Princess of Anhalt, the widow of the last Duke, was so curious that I regretted I had not time to take a copy of it; the purport was, that it was erected in 1679, in honour of the last descendant of the family of *Piaſt*.

It is possible that this is the first time the name of *Piaſt* meets your eye; yet if full

credit is due to this inscription, there are few names so illustrious known in Europe. According to it, the family began in the year 775, and expired with the last Duke of Liegnitz, in 1675, after having lasted exactly nine hundred years; in the course of which it gave twenty-four Kings to Poland, one hundred and twenty-three Dukes to Silesia, preserved Europe from being overrun by the Tartars, introduced the arts, sciences, commerce, and manufactures into the North, and achieved many other deeds of glory and renown: such is the end of many a great name. A few years will bury in ruins the very monument destined to record the fame of the Piaſts.

There is at Liegnitz an institution supported at the King's expense, for the education of twelve young noblemen, to which a Count Kaſpoth has added a foundation for two more; it is called the Knightly Academy, and the object of the institution is to give the instruction necessary to form an

officer in the army, a military school. Each of the young men has a horse, and there is a *menage* that belongs to the house. Besides the mathematics, fortification, and all the properly military studies, they are taught the Latin and French languages, and natural philosophy ; as also the use of many instruments invented for the purpose of agriculture and the arts. Of these instruments they have a collection of models in miniature, by which the professors teach the students their use and construction. This is a very useful addition to the common course of studies in the education of youth, and I wish something similar were introduced into the universities of our own country. The number of students at the academy of Liegnitz is not limited exclusively to the fourteen of the two foundations, but they admit other scholars, whose parents support the expence of their education. The whole number of the students at present there is twenty-two.

There is a single manufactory of broad-cloth at Liegnitz, the proprietors of which have an exclusive privilege for twenty years. They make not more than eight hundred pieces annually, principally for the use of the troops. At this manufactory the whole process of cloth-making is carried through, but they have neither the spinning nor the carding machines.

But the greatest cloth manufacturing town in the province next to Grünberg, is Goldberg, which contains about seven thousand inhabitants, among whom there are not less than a thousand cloth-weavers. They make about twenty thousand pieces of cloth annually, which for the most part they export to Russia, Poland, and various parts of the German empire.

In coming from Goldberg hither, we passed over the Capallenberg, a mountain about a German mile distant from this town, and upon which there is an ample and beautiful prospect, which had been highly ex-

toll to us, but which we could not enjoy, the night having overtaken us before we reached it. We arrived here at ten last evening.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXVIII.

Flinßberg—Its Baths—Mäffersdorf—The Tafelfichte—Baron Gerßdorf—Greiffenberg—Its Linens—Lauban—Linens and Cloths of Lusatia—Görlitz—Zittau—Moravian Settlement of Herrnbutz—The Landeskrona—Bawzen—Bischoffwerda—Dresden.

Dresden, 11th September 1800.

WE have been obliged, for various reasons, to hurry the last part of our journey much more than I could have wished, and to travel post-haste, in four days, through a country which would have afforded us ample occupation and amusement for more than a fortnight. On Saturday evening the 6th we left Hirschberg, and came five German miles to Flinßberg, another of the Silesian bathing and water-drinking places. The local situa-

tion is, at least, as beautiful as that of Landeck, but the baths are not so much frequented; and this summer in particular, the tour of the King and Queen into the province has nearly deprived Flinsberg, which lies remote from the route they took, of all its visitors. The season at all these places is now past, and we found here no company at all. We lengthened our road, three German miles, to come through the spot, not for the sake of itself, but for the purpose of visiting Mäffersdorf, a Saxon village, about half a German mile distant from it, where there is one of the high mountains, usually ascended by travellers, called the Tafelfichte; and what was much more interesting to us, after having climbed so many mountains, where lives Baron Gersdorf, a man of learning and mechanical genius, thoroughly acquainted with every part of this range of mountains, concerning which he has published several esteemed treatises. But, upon arriving at Flinsberg, we found that there

was no stage for post-horses nearer than Greiffenberg, two German miles distant, and the place to which we were going. It would have taken us a whole day to get horses thence ; and as we had no time to spare, we were obliged to give up our visit to Mäfferdorf, and proceed to Greiffenberg with the same horses we had taken at Hirschberg.

Greiffenberg is the fifth of the mountain-towns, as I have mentioned to you in a former letter, and the only one we had not yet seen. It has about two thousand two hundred inhabitants, and exports the finest linens made in the mountains, to the value of about a million of dollars annually. Our time would not allow us to pass a day here, and examine the manufactories, which, however, differ not from those of the other towns where the same trade is carried on. Between this place and the next stage, called Lauban, we passed the boundaries, and entered into Saxony. We came the same night, Sunday, to Görlitz.

The manufactures of broad-cloth, and of linen, are as celebrated through this province of Lusatia as in Silesia; we intended to have seen them all, with the same leisure and attention, but have been obliged to abandon this part of our original plan. The shortness of our time prevented us even from visiting Zittau, which is distant only four German miles from Görlitz, and where the principal manufactures of damask table-linen are established. I did, however, take one day to go and see Herrnhuth, the largest and earliest settlement of the Moravian fraternity, from which place the whole community bear, in German, usually, the name of Herrnhuters. There are three of these settlements in Silesia, near two of which we passed, in our tour, but without then knowing they were there. I had, formerly, passed in sight of the settlement at Zeyst, in the province of Utrecht, but without seeing it, so that this had to me all the effects of novelty; more so, indeed, than probably it would

have had to you, who have seen the Moravian settlements in Pennsylvania. The number of inhabitants at Herrnhuth is about one thousand one hundred and fifty. In the house where the young men dwell there are one hundred and seventy beds; in that of the young women about two hundred—with all the usual trades of the society, carried on in the perfection, and at the high prices for which they are every where noted. Besides these houses, there are various stores and warehouses in the town, belonging to the community, where they have imported articles of all kinds for sale. In the burying-yard are the graves of Count Zinzendorf, the founder of the society, as renewed, about the year 1722, and of his two wives. One of his daughters is yet living, and, with her husband, a Baron de Watteville, resides at the place.

I returned the same evening, Monday the 8th, to Görlitz, and the next morning we continued our journey hither. The Lande-

skrone, a basaltic hill, not more than an English mile in circumference at the foot, and five or six hundred feet high, was one of the objects which it had been our intention to see and to ascend; but as we passed by it, a few miles on this side of Görlitz, the weather was so thick and lowering that we could not have enjoyed the prospect from the summit, and we postponed it for another opportunity, which in all probability will never occur. The 9th we slept at Bawzen, another large and handsomely built town, of which we could only pass our approbation upon the external walls; and yesterday, the 10th, came through the small town of Bischoffwerda to this place, where we arrived at four in the afternoon.

Having now completed our tour through Silesia, and brought you to a place with which your own personal acquaintance renders all description and narratives superfluous, I shall here close my series of letters to you, commenced at my departure from Ber-

lin, and in future only write you occasionally, as at other times. It has been my object to make you, in some sort, participate in the pleasure I have derived from one of the most pleasant tours I ever made; and, at the same time, to compensate in part, for the neglect of having, in the course of the last spring, received from you at various times, seven letters before I answered one. If you should think the remedy worse than the evil, you will at least give me credit for the intention.

We purpose spending only five or six days here, and then to go on to Leipzig, where, if we can find convenient lodgings, we mean to stay a month or six weeks, through the season of the fair. We have sent — forward to procure the lodgings, in which if we should not succeed, we shall prolong our stay here for a month.

For these two months I have enjoyed the great and unwonted pleasure of hearing and

knowing scarcely any thing that is going forward in the political world. It has been a period of armistice upon this continent, and therefore a time of little interest and little consequence. The trade of human butchery, I am told, is now about to commence again. But either it is mere demonstration between the parties to see which can be bullied into the other's terms ; or the war, if renewed, will be very short. The balance is now so decisively preponderant on the side of France, that it is not in the power of Fortune to turn it against her ; and if Austria fights again, it will only be to bleed away till the last drop of life shall call with irresistible necessity to be stopped.

The success of the French this campaign, and the prospects of our next election, have likewise occasioned the failure of our commissioners in France, to obtain that indemnification, to which, in justice, we were entitled ; though from robbery reduced to beg-

gary, the plundered can never have much hope of restitution. They probably think, by their present system, to decide the fate of our election for a change, and by all the accounts I have from America they have good reason for this opinion.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXIX.

*Dresden—The Elector's Collection of Prints
—Mr. E.—Lord H.—Meissen—Porcelain
Manufactory—Wernsdorf—Castle of Hu-
bertsburg—Leipzig.*

Leipzig, 24th September 1800.

I CONTINUE to number my letters, although the series containing the journal of our Silesian tour is closed, so that until our return to Berlin you may know whether you receive all those I write. At Dresden, from which my last to you was dated, we spent six days, in the course of which I renewed my acquaintance with the picture-gallery, made an excursion one afternoon to Tharandt, through the valley of Plauen, and spent two mornings in looking over the Elector's collection of prints, one of the finest in the world. If

time would have allowed me, I should have been glad, likewise, to visit the basaltic mountain of Stolpen, and the mines of Freyberg, in the neighbourhood of Dresden ; but I was obliged to sacrifice this wish again, to the necessity of proceeding as soon as possible to this town, where we have taken lodgings for a month, chiefly for the sake of passing the time of the fair here.

I suppose the recollection of the Plaueschen *grund*, and of Tharandt, is fresh in your mind, as you saw them upon your visit to Dresden, shortly before you left us ; and as coming then from the level, barren sands of Brandenburg, the beauties of their situation must have made a strong impression upon your mind. But after the views upon the Elbe, between Auffig and Dresden, which we had seen last year ; and still more, after having been six weeks exploring the mountains of Silesia and the county of Glatz, the valley of Plauen, and even the ruined castle of Tharandt, lose much of their

charm to the imagination, and dwindle into prospects of very inferior beauty.

The collection of prints I think it questionable whether you saw, and after spending two forenoons in viewing it, we had only to regret that we could not devote every morning to it for as many weeks. It contains all the best engravings extant, from the pictures of all the famous painters of the various schools. We could only attend to the objects of the highest curiosity, such as a series of engravings, arranged chronologically, and exhibiting a history of the progress of the art from its rudest beginnings to its highest state of perfection. Three volumes of the works of Nanteuil, the most celebrated engraver of the age of Louis XIV. (they are all portraits of the most distinguished characters of France during that period, and many of them executed in a style which left very little room for improvement in later times); a collection, in ten numbers, of portraits done by Holbein,

and engraved by Bartolozzi ; a volume of sketches, designed by the admirable Italian painter Guercino, likewise of Bartolozzi's engraving ; and a volume by a German engraver named Baufe, scarcely inferior, if at all, to Bartolozzi, or any other of the English engravers : these, with two volumes of prints from the pictures in the Dresden gallery, an incomplete and indifferently executed collection, were all we had time to examine. Of this collection they keep single prints for sale. I took three of them ; the Night, and St. George, of Corregio, and the Sacrifice of Abraham, of Andrea del Sarto, which, I hope, will one day give some idea to our friends in America of what these high-famed paintings are. The scantiness of my finances would not allow me to make a larger purchase, though I would have added the Magdalen of Corregio, had not the print been so very bad as to be rather a libel upon the picture than a copy of it.

While we were at Dresden, I called upon Mr. E——, and spent a couple of hours

with him. His daughter, of whom you have heard as the beautiful Miss E——, and whom we had often seen last year, was married some months ago to an English gentleman of the name of Payne, and is now in England. Mr. E—— himself is at length married again, and his wife is received into all companies as such. It was not from her life and character, but from her former rank, that obstacles arose at a Saxon court against this. Of mere vice they are all willing enough to admit the rule, "Let greatness own her, and she's mean no more." But a woman without her sixteen quarters of nobility! nothing but the necessity of complying with the profound degeneracy of the times, could have made them acquiesce in admitting such a personage to their company. Mr. E—— is in person, and at times in manners, one of the most accomplished gentlemen I ever knew. He was extremely civil to us last autumn, though I had occasion afterwards to know that his

civilities did not then proceed from any cordial kindness towards us ; but that, as Americans, he saw us at first with embarrassment and dislike. These sentiments, in the course of our intercourse with him at that time, I believe gradually wore away ; and as they had probably proceeded from the supposition that his name was odious to Americans, owing to the transaction at Berlin, relative to Mr. Lee's papers, during the American war, I found him now designedly and repeatedly recurring to that subject in his conversation. After observing that it was now a circumstance that might with full freedom be talked of as a mere historical occurrence, he solemnly declared that the seizure of Mr. Lee's papers was not made by his orders ; that it was entirely the act of an officious servant, who thought to do him a service by it ; that when the papers were brought to him he did look over them indeed, and found among them only two of

any consequence ; one the draft of an unfinished treaty with Spain, and the other a letter from Frederick the Second, or one of his ministers, promising that if any great power in Europe would set the example of acknowledging the independence of the United States, he would be the first to follow it. I am inclined to believe that this account is true, and I was pleased to see the anxiety with which Mr. E—— wished to remove the imputation of having premeditated that act of violence.

At Dresden we met, at the Hotel de Pologne, Prince and Princess Radzivill, with their family, and Mr. and Mrs. Cohen with theirs. The Prince had spent the summer at Carlsbad and Töplitz, and was going to his father's estate in Poland ; Mr. Cohen had been taken ill at Dresden, on his way to Töplitz, with a violent fever, which had confined him a month, and from which he was very slowly recovering.

We likewise saw at Dresden Lord and Lady H——, both of them persons of so much celebrity in their way, that I dare say you have heard their story. Lord H—— had come through Berlin since we left it for our tour, and had brought a letter of introduction to me. I therefore called upon him, but L—— had no inclination to form an acquaintance with his lady, and declined visiting her. Lord H——, you know, is the nephew of —— —, and has been educated to his system of politics, which he endeavours to support in the House of Peers. It is, in every respect, an unhappy system for an English nobleman, and for one just entering upon the world is peculiarly unpromising. The history of his connexion with the woman who is now his wife has cast a much darker shade upon his moral character, though it is generally understood that HE was, in that case, the party seduced. He is not more than five-and-twenty, at least ten years younger than the lady.

We left Dresden on the 16th instant, came that night as far as Meissen, and the next day the remainder of the way to this place. The road is excellent, and, for some miles from Dresden, the country looks like one continued vineyard. As the vintage season is just at hand, the vines are every where loaded with clusters of grapes just ready for the press, and gratify the traveller still with the appearance of plenty, after the gathering of the harvest has given to the rest of the land that of barrenness. At Meissen is the great manufacture of Saxon porcelain, which we had not time, however, to see. At Wermisdorf, a village about five German miles before Leipzig, is the castle of Hubertsburg, famous as being the place where the peace was concluded which terminated the seven years war.

Of Leipzig itself, I may, perhaps, in the course of a month have more to say than I have found hitherto. It is a small compact town, containing about thirty thou-

land inhabitants; but at certain seasons of the year, by its fairs, becomes the centre of almost all the commerce of Germany. There is a very pleasant walk, planted with several rows of trees, which extends all round the town, and this is almost all I know of it as yet.

Yours, &c.

PART THE SECOND:

CONTAINING

**A COMPLETE GEOGRAPHICAL, STATISTICAL, AND
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT**

OF

S I L E S I A;

TOGETHER WITH

AN ACCOUNT

OF

**ITS POLITICAL CONSTITUTION, MILITARY, CIVIL, AND
ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS, SEMINARIES
OF LEARNING, LITERATURE, AND LEARNED
MEN.**

ACCOUNT

OF

S I L E S I A.

LETTER XXX.

Extent and Boundaries of Silesia---Its Population---Early History---Introduction of Christianity---The Piaſts---Ariciſlaus---Diviſions of the Province---Henry the Bearded---St. Hedwige---Incurſion of the Royal Tartars.

Berlin, 20th December 1800.

I SUPPOSE you flatter yourſelf, that having more than three months ago got fairly out of Sileſia, you are to hear nothing further about it, but indeed I ſhall not let you off ſo cheaply; there ſtill remains a very ſhort geographical, ſtatistical, and hiſtorical ac-

count of this interesting province, which I feel it my duty to write; whether you will conceive it yours to read it, I need not inquire.

The dutchy of Silesia, including the county of Glatz, extends on both sides of the river Oder, from the mountains of Hungary to the spot where the Bober falls into it, and is bounded eastward by that part of Poland which was last incorporated with the Prussian monarchy; southward, by the principality of Teschen and the Carpathian mountains; westward, by Bohemia and the Saxon province of Luface; and northward, by the New March of Brandenburg. The summit of the Giant Mountains forms the boundary-line to the southward and westward. It is about two hundred of our miles in length, and about ninety in average width. It has been remarked by the historians of this province, that it is surrounded by five distinct nations, speaking as many different languages—the Poles, Hungarians, Bohemians,

Vandals (of the New March), and Germans.

A census of the population has been taken every year since 1763. There were in the year 1756 between eleven and twelve hundred thousand inhabitants; in 1763, after the seven years war, the numbers were reduced to less than eleven hundred thousand; the enumeration of 1799 gave a result of nearly one million nine hundred thousand. According to this increase, the population would be doubled in a period of seventy years; a growth as extraordinary for its rapidity in Europe as it would be for its slowness in America.

You know there is scarcely a city or province in Europe without its fabulous origin and long traditionary tale, antecedent to any genuine historical information. The Silesians are not without voluminous writers upon their antiquities, and one of them gravely derives the name and descent of his country from the prophet *Elifha*: you might

as well derive a boot-jack from a cork-screw; but the merit of most genealogical derivations consists in their absurdity.

Another hobby-horse, common to almost every village in the north of Europe, is to find itself mentioned with some panegyric in the famous treatise of Tacitus concerning the Germans. Thus the Silesian antiquaries remind their readers that the *Elyfians* are mentioned in that work as one of the most powerful tribes of the Lygians.

However this may be, it is known, that in the sixth century of the Christian æra the ancient inhabitants of the country were conquered by one of those numerous swarms of Slavonians and Vandals, who, issuing from the borders of the Black Sea, over-ran so great a part of Europe. At that period Silesia is considered as having formed a part of Poland, and with it was, either by Charlemagne or some of his successors, rendered tributary to the German empire.

About the middle of the tenth century

was the period when the Christian religion was here introduced; and the bishopric of Breslau was founded by the Polish Duke Aricislaus, of the race of Piast, which had then for somewhat more than an hundred years been in possession of the sovereignty.

You remember in the letter which gave you an account of our passing through Liegnitz, I mentioned the melancholy monumental inscription in the Jesuits' church at that place, upon the last descendant of the Piasts: this circumstance has perhaps excited your curiosity to know something about the first founder of the family, and the manner of his obtaining the supreme authority in his country.

He was, say the old Silesian chronicles, an honest farmer, who subsisted by agriculture and by raising bees. After the death of his predecessor, who had been so cruel a tyrant, that, with his wife and children, he was devoured by the mice, a general election of the person to be clothed with the

royal dignity was just at hand, when an angel, disguised as a traveller, came to the house of Piaſt, who received him with ſo much hoſpitality and treated him ſo plentifully with roaſt pork and mead, that the angel at his departure left a bleſſing behind him, ſo that every barrel brought into the houſe ſpontaneouſly filled with mead, and every platter in like manner filled with a ſpare-rib. With theſe proviſions the angel directed his hoſt to entertain the voters at the election; and the reſult was, that Piaſt was choſen king. Leave out, ſays a hiſtorian of Sileſia, the *Deus ex machina*, and you will think you are reading the account of an election for a member of the Britiſh parliament.

His deſcendant, Ariciſlaus, was born blind, but at the feaſt given to celebrate the happy event of his birth, he opened his eyes: this was an evident preſage of his converſion to Chriſtianity. The motive which finally produced this regeneration was

equally forcible: he had kept seven mistresses, and yet could get no children; the holy Catholic faith was recommended to him as a recipe to cure barrenness; accordingly he was baptized, married a Bohemian princess, and begat sons and daughters.

In the year 1163, by one of those divisions of a kingdom between several children, which were common in many parts of Europe during the middle ages, Silesia was separated from Poland, and thenceforward for some time was governed by its own dukes; it was soon after again subdivided into three separate sovereignties; these in process of time met with the same fate, until the province was cut up into almost as many dukedoms and principalities as it contained cities. This parcelling out of the country greatly facilitated, in the sequel, the conquest of the whole by the kings of Bohemia.

One of the earliest dukes was Henry *the Bearded*, whose reign began in the year

1201; he was the husband of St. *Hedwige*, who was canonized a few years after her death, and has ever since been the patronesses of Silesia. She was a daughter of a Count of Baden, had been educated in a cloister, and prevailed upon her husband to squander almost all his revenues and a great part of his domains in founding, endowing, and enriching religious houses. In one of my letters from Hirschberg I mentioned one of the churches built by her, which you will perhaps recollect. She and her husband both possessed some valuable qualities; but the grounds upon which she was raised to the senate of the Roman Catholic mythology were, her superstition, her excessive veneration for the monks, and, above all, her liberality to the church.

Her son, who succeeded his father and bore his name, was so well educated in the same principles, and so faithfully practised them, that he obtained the surname of *the Pious*. He was slain in a bloody battle fought near

Liegnitz, against a horde of Mogul Tartars, who to the number of several hundred thousand invaded Poland and Silesia in the year 1241. The object of these barbarians was, however, plunder rather than conquest; for they withdrew from Silesia in May 1241, leaving ruin and desolation as memorials of their visit.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXI.

Introduction of the Magdeburg Law by St. Hedwige---Casimir Duke of Teschen solicits the Aid of Wenceslaus King of Bohemia, against Henry Duke of Breslau ---Other Princes follow his Example.

Berlin, 20th December 1800:

SAINT Hedwige, by birth a German, had taken great and successful pains to prevail upon many of her countrymen to settle in Silesia; and her son, in complacency to them, introduced into the country what is called the *Magdeburg, or German law*. You remember Blackstone's account of the manner in which the civil and canon laws were propagated all over Europe in the course of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and the resistance, more or less successful, against their introduction by the parti-

zans of the ancient common law of the several countries. The result almost every where was, that the ancient usages and customs were blended with the forms and with many of the principles of the new systems form a new code ; and such, among others, was the Magdeburg law. It bore the name of that city because the court of final appeal for all causes arising under it was established at Magdeburg. This custom of receiving from a foreign tribunal or college the final sentence in litigated causes, prevailed in Silesia until the middle of the sixteenth century.

At the beginning of the fourteenth century, in consequence of the frequent divisions and subdivisions of the province, which I have already mentioned, there were sixteen dukes reigning at once over the several parts of Silesia. These petty princes, it is superfluous to say, were perpetually at war with one another, and continually wresting from each other their respective dominions : the

natural consequence of such a state of things soon ensued; the weakest looked abroad for assistance, and the Kings of Bohemia were ever close at hand, fomenting all their discords on one side, and offering their protection on the other, to those who would take it at the price of subjection to their patrons. It is the old fable of the horse, who calls the man to his assistance, and finds a master where he expected an ally. In the year 1288 Casimir Duke of Teschen, to obtain a competent defence against Henry Duke of Breslau, gave the first example, which was soon after followed by most of the other Silesian princes. He surrendered his dukedom to Wenceslaus King of Bohemia, receiving it again from him as a fief in vassalage under that kingdom.

Such was the second revolution in the state of Silesia; and here begins the third of the six periods into which its history is divided. The change of government was in this case owing to the same cause with the preceding

one. The same principle of dividing a sovereignty between several children, which first severed Silesia from Poland, by a more remote consequence produced its annexation to Bohemia. The great principle of the feudal system, that all lands are held as fiefs under a sovereign lord, was never introduced into Poland, where even until the extinction of the republic all estates were held as allodial, and equally divisible among the children of the holder. The same principle was extended to the sovereign authority; and its effects, when thus applied, were, by a double operation, and after a long series of years, to transfer Silesia from the state of a Polish to that of a Bohemian province.

I shall in my next pursue this compendium of Silesian history.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXII.

Most of the Princes of Silesia submit to John of Luxemburg, King of Bohemia---Renunciation of the Claims of the King of Poland to Silesia, and those of the King of Bohemia to Poland---Origin of the Hussite War---Silesia and Glatz invaded by the Hussites, who afterwards submit---Contentions excited by the Death of Sigismund, quieted by John of Brandenburg---Silesia secured to Matthias King of Hungary.

Berlin, 27th December 1800.

It was during the reign of John of Luxemburg, King of Bohemia, from 1310 to 1346, that most of the dukes and princes, among whom Silesia was divided, were prevailed upon by the usual intrigues and artifices of a stronger power, projecting to swallow up a weaker one, or were com-

pelled by force to submit their dominions as fiefs of that crown. The tie of subjection, indeed, to which they yielded, was loose and feeble; for they retained almost all their sovereign rights, and scarcely bound themselves to the performance of any duties or services. But the great benefit of this connexion to the Bohemian kings was, that, upon the extinction of any one line of dukes, his dominions escheated, according to the feudal principle, to the crown. The effect of this circumstance soon incorporated several of the most considerable Silesian duchies with the kingdom of Bohemia.

The kings of Poland still retained pretensions to the sovereignty of Silesia, and John had, on his part, pretensions to the crown of Poland. After long altercation and war, a treaty was concluded at Trenzin, in Moravia, in 1335, by virtue of which, these pretensions were reciprocally renounced, excepting with respect to two or three of the duchies which had not yet submitted to the

Bohemian crown. The Polish renunciation was afterwards, in 1356, during the reign of the Emperor Charles IV. son of John of Luxemburg, extended to these remaining dutchies; and, in the year 1355, Charles, by a solemn act, to which the Electors of the German empire acceded, formally incorporated Silesia with the kingdom of Bohemia. Notwithstanding this example, Silesia has never been properly considered as a province of the German empire.

Soon after this event, during the reign of Wenceslaus, son of Charles IV. broke out the Hussite war, which raged in Silesia with such violence, that the memorial of its desolations is, to this day, frequently presented to the attention of the traveller.

Charles IV. in the year 1347, founded at Prague, an university, which was soon after frequented by a great concourse of students, not only natives of the country, but thronging from Germany, attracted by certain privileges, which were allowed to

students from abroad, in order to draw them thither, and for the encouragement of the university. These privileges not being shared by the teachers and students, natives of Bohemia, soon gave rise to jealousies and dissensions between them and the strangers. As, by the foundation, the students of the several nations were kept distinct from one another, the temper which was now introduced, soon led the nations, in the public exercises, to maintain theological theses against each other, and, as it always happens when the angry passions get a firm footing in the mind, it was a sufficient motive for one party to reject a doctrine that the other had adopted. John Hufs, one of the Bohemian teachers, actuated, perhaps, by the hatred against all foreign usurpation, which resentment against the privileges of the foreigners at the university would naturally inspire, began to maintain many of the principles hostile to the papal power, which Wickliff had set the example of advancing, a

short time before, in England. One of the principal articles upon which he insisted, was, the right of the laity to the communion in both kinds. He found an antagonist to his doctrines, in one of the German teachers, a Doctor Reiner. From the schools the controversy soon issued, to ascend the pulpit, and to circulate among the people. Hufs's opinions, besides their own substantial weight, had all the passions of the Bohemians in their favour, and spread with great rapidity and success among them. The Pope was soon alarmed for his authority. Hufs was summoned as an heretic before the council of Constance, and, upon refusing to retract his doctrines, was, by their decree, in open undisguised violation of the Emperor's safe-conduct, together with his friend Jerom of Prague, in the year 1415, burnt at the stake.

But the ashes of the teachers only served to kindle the enthusiasm of their opinions, and the fury of those who had espoused them.

The Hussites soon became multitudes ; those multitudes did not fail to find leaders ; and a civil war burst out with a fury which centuries were not able to appease, and the devastations of which are perceptible in their effects to this hour.

The Silesians were invited by the Hussites to make a common cause with them against the Emperor ; they not only declined this, however, but the Bishop of Silesia and the town of Breslau were, by the Pope's legate, prevailed upon to assemble troops, and make an hostile incursion into Bohemia. To revenge this assault, the Hussites, in the year 1426, invaded Glatz and Silesia, carrying fire and sword over the greater part of those provinces. They defeated, in frequent successive battles, all the armies which the Emperor could send against them ; and it was found so impossible to suppress them, that, in the year 1486, by a decree of the council of Basil, the communion in both kinds was allowed them ; after which they submitted themselves to the authority of Sigismund,

the brother and successor of Wenceslaus. But Sigismund died in the year 1437, without leaving any heirs male; and the question of a disputed succession after his death, combined with the religious discords still prevailing to produce a new series of wars, in the course of which Silesia was successively ravaged by Hungarian, Bohemian, and Polish armies. In 1474 an agreement was concluded between the kings of these three nations for the settlement of their respective pretensions. It was effected by the persuasion of the Margrave of Brandenburg, John, who, for his eloquence upon this occasion, received the surname of Cicero. It was, according to one of his descendants, the memorialist of the House of Brandenburg, a sort of eloquence similar to that with which he himself obtained the possession of the same province—the eloquence of six thousand horsemen to support his arguments.

In 1478, by a peace concluded at Olmutz, the possession of Silesia was secured to Mat-

thias King of Hungary ; and from this period begins the fourth epoch in the Silesian annals, during which it is considered as an appendage of Hungary, where for the present I shall leave it, and bid you a short adieu.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXIV.

Changes effected in Silesia by Matthias—A Viceroy appointed—The Princes reduced to Obedience, and a Land-tax imposed upon the People.

Berlin, 30th December 1800.

THE transfer of Silesia from the Bohemian to the Hungarian dominion, which, as I have before informed you, was the result of the Hussite wars, complicated with a disputed succession to the crowns of both those kingdoms, was followed by much more important changes in the condition of the inhabitants than had been produced by the preceding revolutions. The numerous petty princes who had successively been persuaded or forced to recognise a common sovereign, had retained almost all their prerogatives ; and

the Bohemian kings never could depend upon that province, either for military service or for pecuniary contribution. The private feuds between the now subordinate princes were nearly, or quite, as frequent as they had been before their subjection, and the consideration and power of the monarch were seldom competent to suppress them. It was the manifest interest of the kings to reduce the strength of such turbulent vassals, and for this purpose they granted frequent and considerable privileges to the inhabitants of the towns; these had a thorough detestation for their princely lords, whom they much more often found their tyrants than their protectors. The quarrels between these princes, according to the ideas of the times, were held for regular wars; but between sovereigns of so little power, and who were so numerous, they naturally degenerated into little more than highway robberies. The people of the towns were continually placed between the rapacity of their lord and that of his

enemies ; they were glad, therefore, to seek in the favour of their kings such privileges as might afford them a protection, which they could not hope from their arms. Hence, during the Bohemian dominion, the constant tendency of affairs had been to depress the balance of the princes, and to raise that of the people. But Matthias, the first of the kings of the Hungarian race, made them all bend alike under the weight of an iron sceptre ; as, by his personal character, he was one of the ablest princes of his age, so, by means of his standing army (for he was among the first kings in Europe who kept one), he became one of the most powerful. His supremacy was felt both in its good and its evil consequences ; he suppressed the private wars between the princes, and the highway robberies resulting from them ; he established a viceroy, with authority to settle all controversies of that nature by a regular course of justice, and suffered no new-fortified castle to be built, and no new tax or contribution

to be imposed without his special permission. These measures were all carried into effect by the energy with which he provided for their execution, and by introducing that public security which is one of the principal ends for which human societies are instituted. He was the benefactor of all classes of his people; but, on the other hand, he oppressed the princes, by compelling some of them to sell their estates to him, and by levying heavy fines as penalties upon others; at the same time he burdened all the people by a permanent land-tax, from which, until then, they had always been exempt, and which they felt the more severely for its novelty.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXIV.

Uladislaus King of Bohemia succeeds Matthias as King of Hungary---Weakness of Uladislaus----Compact between the Duke of Liegnitz and the Elector of Brandenburg ---Death of Uladislaus---Lewis---Silesia and Bohemia transferred to Austria---Compact between the Duke of Liegnitz and the Elector of Brandenburg declared void--- Luther's Doctrines received in Silesia--- Death of Ferdinand---Maximilian---Rudolph II.---Compact between George Margrave of Anspach and the Duke of Ratibor declared void---Jägerndorf granted by George Frederick to the Elector of Brandenburg—Matthias.

Berlin, 31st December 1800.

MATTHIAS died in the year 1490, and was succeeded by Uladislaus King of Bohemia, conformably to the peace of Olmutz,

concluded in 1478. Uladislaus was likewise, about the same time, elected King of Hungary; and hence a dispute arose whether Silesia was henceforth to be held as an appendage to the Hungarian or to the Bohemian crown. By the peace of Olmutz, it was to have been restored to Bohemia, upon the payment of forty thousand ducats; and as they were not paid, the Hungarians contended that Silesia must still be viewed as a province of theirs. The Bohemians and Silesians insisted upon a reunion, and their wishes finally prevailed.

This Uladislaus was remarkable for that kind of weakness of character which never can refuse any thing; and one of its consequences was, that his grants and ordinances were often in direct contradiction to one another. Thus, by one of his regulations it was established, that none of the Bohemian domains should be subject to alienation; while, by another, he granted to Frederick the Second, Duke of Liegnitz, the right of

alienating his dutchy by testament, or by compact of mutual inheritance. This was one of the expedients in frequent practice under the German constitution, to counteract the consequence of the perpetual divisibility of kingdoms and provinces. It was common among brothers, and among different branches of the same family; it consisted of stipulations, that upon the extinction of either of the contracting lines, the other should come into possession of its estates. The Duke of Liegnitz, to whom, likewise, Brieg and Wohlau belonged, accordingly did make such a compact in the year 1537, with Joachim Elector of Brandenburg. This event deserves particular notice, because it was the first foundation of the claim which, more than two centuries after, placed the whole province in the possession of the Prussian monarchs.

Uladislaus disbanded his father's army; and having thus resigned almost all the instruments of power which were in those days

efficacious, it was not surprising that his authority fell into contempt. The old anarchy of private wars and highway robberies, practised by the nobility, was renewed in as great violence as ever; they had reduced it to a sort of regular system, and the noble robbers exercised their trade with nice distinctions. A Silesian chronicle mentions one of these uncourteous knights, who became celebrated by the name of Black Kitt, and, with his squire, was hanged in the year 1502. He made it a rule to plunder merchants and Jews, but not the learned. His tests of learning were like those which, in the English courts, entitled felons to the benefit of clergy. At the gallows he declared some of the dukes had promised to support him, and by way of last words sung, "Put not your trust in princes." His squire, who was hanged with him, begged hard for his life, and offered, if they would spare it, to be put upon hard labour in the fortress, or to take a wife.

Uladislaus died in the year 1516, and was succeeded by his son Lewis, a child of ten years, who, in 1526, was killed in a battle against the Turks under Soliman the Second. Lewis left no children ; and as his only sister Anna had married Ferdinand I. Archduke of Austria, afterwards Emperor, Silesia, together with Bohemia, became a possession of the House of Austria ; and from this occurrence commences the fifth period in the history of the province.

The compact of inheritance between the Duke of Liegnitz and the Elector of Brandenburg was strengthened by a double marriage between each of their sons and the other's daughter. It was therefore very probable that Liegnitz, with its appendages, would soon fall to the House of Brandenburg ; and under that apprehension, Ferdinand prevailed upon the States of Bohemia to declare the compact of inheritance null and void, conformably to the ordinance of Uladislaus, that no part of the Bohemian domains should be subject to alienation. The Elector of

Brandenburg entered a protest against this decision of the States. The Duke of Liegnitz was compelled to recognise, in writing, the nullity of the compact, but left a solemn confirmation of it in his last will.

From the time when the House of Austria came into possession of Silesia, the weight and independence of the princes gradually dwindled away, and the power of the sovereign insensibly spread itself over all classes of the people alike. But instead of the divisibility of sovereignty which had for several centuries been the prolific seed of war among men, another had just sprouted out of the ground and taken firm root in it, which had its turn of three hundred years to depeople the earth, and has but recently resigned the soil to a third kernel of desolation. I speak of the religious dissensions which blazed out with inextinguishable violence from the moment of the controversy commenced by Luther in 1517.

Of the Silesian princes, nearly one half, in the course of a few years, embraced the doc-

trines of the Reformation: the rest adhered to the Catholic faith, and in almost every instance the vassals followed the examples of their respective lords. The Austrian sovereigns always found it necessary to tolerate, in a certain degree, the new sect which had such numerous partizans; and experience proved that the policy of those emperors was the most successful which carried toleration the farthest.

Ferdinand I. died in 1564, and was succeeded by his son Maximilian, who, after a short reign, was, upon his death in 1576, followed by his son Rudolph the Second. This prince lived until the year 1612, but before his death had lost, by successive follies and misfortunes, all his dominions.

During the reign of Lewis, the last king before the Austrian line, he had granted to George Margrave of Anspach, who was at the same time Prince of Jägerndorf, in Silesia, and Lewis's greatest favourite, the power of disposing, by will or deed, of this principality. George, by virtue of this authority, made

a compact of mutual inheritance with the Duke of Oppeln and Ratibor, who died without issue, and George came into possession of his estates. The Emperor Ferdinand had declared this compact null and void, upon the same grounds as those alleged against the Duke of Liegnitz's compact, and had taken Oppeln and Ratibor to himself, with a promise, which he never performed, to pay George one hundred and thirty thousand florins by way of indemnity. The Margrave George was succeeded, as Duke of Jägersdorf, by his son George Frederick, who, having no children, left the principality to his cousin Joachim Elector of Brandenburg. Joachim soon after granted it to his son John George. This was at a time when Rudolphus was so reduced in power, that he did not venture to oppose the execution of the testamentary disposition, which, however, he did not confirm. In the year 1612 Rudolphus was succeeded, as King of Bohemia, by his brother Matthias.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXV.

*Causes and Origin of the Thirty Years War
—Death of Matthias—Ferdinand II.—
Ferdinand III.—Peace of Westphalia—
Leopold—Claims of the House of Bran-
denburg.*

Berlin, 10th January 1801.

DURING the reign of the Emperor Matthias, and in the year 1618, commenced that series of events which has left such traces of desolation throughout Germany, and which makes so conspicuous a figure in the history of modern Europe, under the name of the thirty years war. One century had elapsed since the beginning of Luther's reformation, and in the course of that time the princes and people of Germany had become divided into two parties of nearly equal strength, one adhering to Popery, and the other

adopting the Protestant doctrines. The House of Austria, in whom the imperial dignity had in a manner become hereditary, continued zealously Catholic, and, by uniting the principles of intolerance with the practice of oppression, compelled the Protestants not only of its own dominions but almost throughout Europe, to combine in leagues for the mutual support of each other. Such a league, at the time of which I speak, subsisted between the Protestants of Bohemia and of Silesia. By a charter of the Emperor Rudolphus the Protestants had been allowed the privilege of building and using churches under certain limitations, some of which were not defined with perfect precision. Several churches had been built in places where the Catholic construction of the limitations did not suffer the privilege to extend. These churches were destroyed, or forcibly taken from the Protestants by order of the Emperor's government in Bohemia; several of the most vehement

of the Protestants were at the same time thrown into prison. These transactions caused a general alarm among the Protestants; their deputies from every district of the kingdom assembled at Prague, and agreed upon a petition to the Emperor for the liberation of the Protestant prisoners. The answer was negative, severe, and menacing. An artful report was circulated by the leaders of the Protestants, that this answer was drawn up, not by the Emperor himself, but by his council of regency at Prague, and sent to him only to be signed. In their rage the Protestants hurried to the palace at Prague, rushed into the hall where the council of regency was assembled, and threw out of the windows, more than eighty feet high, two of the most obnoxious members of the council and their secretary. The Protestants, says Schiller, could never conceive how any one should look upon this as an extraordinary transaction; they asserted it to be according to the custom of Bohemia; and the

only surprising part of the event was, that the Imperial counsellors came off unhurt from their fall, having been received in their descent by a large dunghill that happened to be under the windows from which they had been ejected. From this period the Bohemian Protestants flew to arms, and called for the stipulated assistance of their Silesian brethren; they received it accordingly, and thus the province was involved in the thirty years war, of which during the greater part of its continuation it became one of the principal theatres. Alternately pillaged, ransomed, and ravaged by hostile armies, now in the character of enemies, now in that of friends and defenders; now desolated by Catholic Imperialists, and now ransacked by Swedish Protestants; her wealth decayed, her industry dwindled, her population declined, her cities crumbled into ruins, and her fruitful fields withered into deserts. The scars of the wounds then inflicted by the hand of religious discord upon the beauteous face of

this country, even at this day, after the lapse of more than a century and a half, give deformity to many of its features. At the peace of Westphalia, in 1648, only a small part of Silesia obtained the secure possession of the same religious privileges they had enjoyed before the war. The rest were left at the mercy of the Emperor, who, at the intercession of Christina Queen of Sweden, was barely prevailed upon to permit the Protestants of his hereditary possessions to attend the performance of their religious services in the neighbourhood, beyond the borders of Silesia, and to allow the building of three new Protestant churches, one of which was that of Schweidnitz, as I mentioned in my letter from that place.

The Emperor Matthias died in 1619, was succeeded by Ferdinand the Second, who lived until 1687, and then dying, had for successor his son Ferdinand the Third. It was during the reign of this prince that the peace of Westphalia was accomplished. He

died in 1657, from which time his son Leopold reigned until his death in 1705.

During the reign of Leopold, in the year 1678, died the last descendant of the Piast family in Silesia, George William, Duke of Liegnitz, Brieg, and Wohlau, whose monument you will remember we saw in passing through Liegnitz. By his death the succession of all his estates, conformably to the compact of mutual inheritance made by his ancestor with the Elector of Brandenburg, would have devolved upon the descendant and successor of that prince, Frederick William, known by the name of *The great Elector*. He accordingly advanced his claim, but it was not allowed by the Emperor ; the duchies were by the Imperial chancery considered as escheated, and declared hereditary fiefs of the crown. As an indemnity however to the Elector of Brandenburg, the district of Schwibus, a corner of Silesia bordering upon the Electorate, was ceded to him, and in consideration of this he formally renounced by

treaty, in the year 1685, all his pretensions to the principalities in question. At the same time the Imperial minister who negotiated this convention, by intriguing with the Elector's son, afterwards his successor, prevailed upon him to sign a secret engagement, that upon his accession to the Electorate he would *restore the circle of Schwibus to the Emperor*. This engagement he punctually fulfilled, observing to those of his council who dissuaded him from it, that he would keep his word, and leave his successors, who would not be bound by his act, to make good their rights in Silesia. He was then full of the project of assuming the kingly title, and his anxiety to obtain the acknowledgment of it by the Emperor induced him to avoid every collision which might have produced a refusal.

You have now a clear view of all the claims upon which the conquest of Silesia, by the grandson of the first King of Prussia, was founded. In his Memoirs of the House

of Brandenburg he asserts, that their pretensions to the four principalities were *indisputable*. By the success of his arms he proved at least that nothing was to be gained by disputing them. The contest on the part of the House of Austria was too unequal against a man, who on one side could write a book, and on the other could head an army to support his demands. Austria was in a situation something like that of Moliere's *Sofie*; the proofs against him, urged by the god who assumed his shape and name, are so striking to him, that he seriously begins to doubt his own identity:

Près de moi, par *la force*, il est déjà *Sofie*;
Il pourroit bien encore l'être par *la raison*.

An impartial mind, however, must admit that the justice of that claim is, to say the least, extremely questionable, which was originally founded upon a compact annulled by the constitution of the country in which it was made, and which, such as it was, had

been at a subsequent period formally renounced for a valuable consideration. To say that the consideration given was not *sufficiently* valuable, or that the first King of Prussia had been over-reached in the negotiation, by virtue of which he restored it, would be held a feeble argument without the aid of artillery.

But although it is extremely difficult to ascertain which of the parties to this great question was right, such is the unhappy characteristic of human history, that there is no difficulty to find instances during the course of the transactions in which both were essentially wrong. Such was the first grant of Uladislaus to the Duke of Liegnitz and of Iägerndorf, allowing them to dispose of their estates, contrary to the constitution of the kingdom. Such likewise was the secret negotiation, by virtue of which the first King of Prussia restored the district of Schwibus. The wise judge in the fable of Phædrus would certainly have pronounced

between Frederick the Second and Maria
Theresa,

Tu non videris perdidisse quod petis;
Te credo subripuisse quod pulchre negas.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXVI.

*Death of Leopold—Joseph I.—Charles VI.
—The Pragmatic Sanction—Conduct of
Europe towards Maria Theresa—Frederick II. of Prussia asserts his Claims to
Silesia, and conquers that Province—
Peace of Breslau—Hostilities renewed and
terminated—Seven Years War—Peace of
Hubertsherg—Silesia becomes a Province
of Prussia.*

Berlin, 20th January 1801.

As my purpose is only to give you the great and general outlines of the Silesian history, with a special view to shew the origin of the conquest which made it a Prussian province, I shall, merely to complete the chronological series of its Austrian sovereigns, observe to you, that the Emperor Leopold I. at his death in 1705, was suc-

ceeded by his eldest son Joseph I. who dying in 1711, made way for his next brother, Charles VI.; this prince reigned until 1740, at the latter end of which he died, and with him expired the male line of the House of Austria.

The great object of his life, from the time when he ascended the Imperial throne, was to secure the succession of his hereditary dominions to his daughter Maria Theresa. He had prescribed this succession by the ordinance which became so famous by the name of the *Pragmatic Sanction*, which was assented to by the States of his several provinces, and, among the rest, by those of Silesia. By a continued series of negotiations for almost thirty years, and by a variety of great sacrifices, he had obtained the guarantee of his dispositions by all the important powers of Europe. Scarcely had the breath deserted his body, when the greater part of Europe, and particularly most of the powers who had guaranteed the Prag-

matic Sanction, fell like tigers upon that very princess whom they had engaged to support, and waged a bloody war to despoil her of every inch of her patrimony. This is altogether natural, and, as Shakspeare's Jaques observes, "just the fashion."

Among the numerous princes who started up on all sides with some new-vamped old claim to her possessions, the King of Prussia, who, like the rest, had guaranteed the Pragmatic Sanction, came forward with the old pretensions to the four principalities, which had been so equivocal in point of right from the beginning; and which, such as they were, his predecessors, the Great Elector, and the first King of Prussia, had, for valuable consideration, so formally renounced. The Prussian crown had descended to the hands of Frederick II. but a few months before the death of Charles VI. and the royal philosopher has, in his Memoirs, himself alleged the motives which swayed him on this occasion: that the

power of Prussia was not sufficiently respected by foreign states at his accession; and that it was necessary to establish a character by some action of *eclat* with the beginning of a reign; that he was strong by the treasure and army which his father had left him, the last of which he had, on coming to the throne, increased with eight new regiments; that Maria Theresa was weak by her youth and inexperience, by the embarrassment of her finances, and by the numerous enemies she had upon her hands; that Silesia was the only province easy to invade, by its proximity to the Prussian territory, and disabled for resistance by the smallness of the military force contained in it; that Prussia having been raised to the name of a kingdom, by the vanity of his grandfather, it was incumbent upon him to make it in real strength worthy of the title; and that he was ambitious to make himself a name.

In all this there is about as much philo-

sophy as in Sir John Falstaff's reasons for swindling money from Justice Shallow—"If the young dace," says Sir John, "be a bait for the old pike, I see no reason in the law of nature but I may snap at him." Frederick says in his Memoirs, that the pretensions of his house to the four dutchies were *incontestable*; but he thinks it not expedient to state what they were. You have seen them in my former letters reduced to their just value; he thought it as useless to discuss them with Maria Theresa as to unfold them in his writings to the public. He sent indeed a minister to Vienna, with orders to negotiate, if possible, an amicable cession of Silesia to him; but he placed so little dependence upon this measure, that he himself says, his army entered Silesia two days before his ambassador arrived at Vienna.

The mere conquest of the province was an affair of no great difficulty; in little more than a month the Prussians were in possession of almost all Silesia; and when the Queen of

Hungary was able to send what forces she could spare to maintain her dominion over it, they were successively defeated in the two battles of Molwitz and Chotusitz; after which she gave up the contest, and by the peace of Breslau, signed on the 11th of June 1742, ceded the province of Silesia to the King of Prussia.

But two years afterwards the war was renewed; superior fortune and superior skill continued to attend upon the Prussian arms; the three successive battles of Friedberg, Sohr, and Kesselsdorff, all issued advantageously to Frederick, and on the 25th of December 1745, the peace was signed a second time.

In the mean while Maria Theresa had prevailed against the mighty combination of her enemies, and had secured to herself not only the remainder of the Austrian hereditary dominions, but likewise, after an interval of two years, and the shadow of an Emperor personated during that period by the Elector

of Bavaria, under the name of Charles VII. had procured the restoration of the imperial dignity to her house, in which it has remained to this day. Her prosperity inspired or corroborated the design of recovering also the province which she had been in the hour of her distress compelled to sacrifice; and in the progress of ten years of negotiation she gathered against Frederick that tempest which he so gloriously weathered, and with which you are well acquainted, by the name of the seven years war. In this, much more than in his conquest, he displayed the qualities which entitle him unquestionably to the appellation of a great man. Of this war Silesia was one of the principal theatres, and one of the most considerable objects. The battles and sieges of which it was the scene, form some of the most remarkable events in the history of modern Europe, and are full of instruction for students in the art of war. But this is not the place to enlarge upon so copious a

subject ; it will suffice to say, that by the peace of Hubertsburg, signed on the 15th of February 1763, he was put in possession of all his dominions just as they had been at the commencement of the war, and among them of course was the province of Silesia. From that day it has been an undisputed appendage of the Prussian monarchy, and will, in all probability, continue so as long as the powers of Austria shall be inadequate to vindicate the rights which, though so often renounced by treaty, she has perhaps not yet abandoned in her heart.

LETTER XXXVII.

*Revenues drawn from Silesia by Frederick—
Land-tax—Capitation-tax—Excise.*

Berlin, 7th February 1801.

THE most important change in the internal condition of Silesia which followed its conquest by the King of Prussia, proceeds from the precautions which he found necessary to secure it. Under the Austrian government there had been no strongly fortified places to bar the progress of an invader, and not more than two thousand men garrisoned within the province in time of peace. You have seen by my former letters at what a vast expense Frederick II. shielded his acquisition by the fortresses of Schweidnitz, Silberberg, and Glatz; besides which he constantly kept on foot an army of forty thousand men within the limits of the pro-

vince. To defray the cost of all this force, the revenues arising from the country to be defended by it were alone applied ; and there cannot possibly be a more luminous proof of the difference between a good and bad administration of the same resources, than the fact, that the King of Prussia accomplished all this without adding at all to the burdens of the people who had become his subjects.

The revenues drawn from Silesia by its last Austrian sovereigns had been collected from the produce of the domains, and from taxes granted by the provincial states. According to the system common to almost all the governments of Germany, the domains are considered as the private property of the prince. They consist of the rents of his lands, judicial fines, the capitation, the ransom of Jews, the sale of salt, and certain tolls or customs. The sums raised and granted by the states were levied by land-tax and excise. These in the last years of the Austrian government had amounted to about

two millions and a half of rixdollars annually; and the land-tax granted in the year 1739 was one million seven hundred and four thousand nine hundred and thirty-two rixdollars.

Immediately after the conquest, Frederick declared that he would take this sum as the measure of that which he should annually require by the land-tax, and promised for himself and his successors that no higher sum should ever be required, however the value of the lands in the province might be raised by improvements. At the same time he abolished the excise altogether, excepting in the cities, and took it away in several absurd and oppressive particulars even there. By this proceeding the very shadow of what Englishmen and Americans usually consider as the most important principle of liberty, the necessity of the subject's consent for the levying of taxes, was renewed. In this respect Frederick acted as a conqueror, and in a very arbitrary manner. But it was

probably for the real advantage of the people, that one permanent and unalterable sum should be fixed as the annual claim of the government upon their lands, instead of the unequal and often more burdensome demands to which they were liable under the Austrian sway, with which they were alike obliged to comply, the consent of the states being little more than a bare form. The mode of raising the sum Frederick took upon himself. He employed a small number of officers to make an accurate valuation of all the lands in the province, and of the incomes proceeding from them. This work was accomplished in two years' time, and is asserted to be one of the most exact and detailed valuations ever made. This being accomplished, the assessment was made upon the income of the lands, and in proportions varied according to the condition of the proprietors. The estates belonging to the king, the princes, the nobility, the secular clergy, and to schoolmasters, were charged to the amount

of twenty-eight one third of their annual income; those of the peasants were burdened thirty-four per cent.; those of knightly orders with forty per cent.; and those of the bishop, the spiritual foundations, and the convents, with fifty per cent. It is one of the particularities of this ordinance, that the King's own domains are subjected to it. The panegyrists of Frederick make a merit of this, though it amounts to little else than taking from one pocket to put into another. It was, however, a good pretext to him for charging in like manner the noble and clerical estates, which, in many other countries, are exempted from taxation. Had he carried the spirit of equity, upon which he made this arrangement, still further, and inverted the proportions of the two first classes of his assessments, the regulation would have been yet more honourable for himself, and might be contemplated with more pleasure by the friends of humanity. A tax of thirty-four per cent. upon the whole annual produce of

the farmer's lands, raised at all times in profound peace, as well as amidst the flame of war in our country, would be considered as altogether intolerable. Yet there are few countries in Europe where the burden is not still heavier. In many, one half of the peasant's produce suffices not to satisfy the demands of his government. Frederick's valuation rated the lands very low, and their worth has since been raised; so that an average of about twenty-eight per cent. is considered to be the charge upon the whole landed income. The value of all the lands was estimated at about thirteen millions sterling, and their income at about one.

The capitation-tax was limited to such inhabitants of the country as were not proprietors of lands, in proportions from one rixdollar to eight, according to the means of the individual. The linen and woollen spinners and weavers were exempted from it. The produce of this tax amounts to about one hundred and fifty thousand rixdollars,

or twenty-five thousand pounds sterling. For the purpose of collecting these taxes, the whole province is divided into forty-eight circles, each named from the city contained within it. In every circle there is a landrath (an officer I mentioned to you in my letter from Frankfort), and under him a receiver, who keeps his office in the city within the circle. The schultz, or constable, in every village collects the taxes due by the inhabitants, and at a stated day in every month pays them into the receiver's office: the proprietors of lands, not included within any village, must pay in like manner to the receiver for themselves. At Breslau and at Glogau are two offices of receivers-general, where, at the close of each month, the receivers of all the circles within the respective districts render in the monies they have received. These offices are under the superintendence of the governor, or, according to the customary Prussian denomination, the minister of Silesia. The monthly payments

must invariably be made, without any variation or deduction; but if a landholder has met with any extraordinary loss or damage, by fire, storms, or disease among his cattle, a proportional allowance is made him, after due examination and estimation by the landrath: this allowance is not abated from his usual monthly assessment, but is paid to him in specie out of the receiver-general's office. This arrangement must often occasion trouble, seemingly unnecessary, to individuals; yet it is more calculated to confirm and establish a systematic punctuality, than if the allowance was deducted from the landholder's monthly payment. The landrath is responsible for the regular collection of the tax; and if any landholder run into considerable arrears, his estate is put under administration, with an allowance for his own support, while the rest of his income is applied to the discharge of his taxes due.

The excise, as I have before mentioned, is limited to the cities, where it is intended

as a substitute for the land-tax, which is not extended to them. But this excise is applied even to the most necessary articles of consumption, such as corn and beer. It is collected by the visitors and receivers at the gates of the cities, a class of people with whom you, as a traveller in Germany, have been well acquainted. These consist commonly of invalid soldiers, who are thus provided with a comfortable subsistence; and they pay, monthly, the sums collected into the two offices at Breslau and Glogau, in the same manner as I have mentioned of the land-tax. The produce of the excise may be estimated now at more than two hundred thousand pounds sterling; and, like the other tax, is appropriated to the maintenance of the troops in Silesia.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXVIII.

Silesian Revenue continued—French Excisemen introduced at the Recommendation of Helvetius; but sent home by the present King—Sale of Salt—Tax upon Jews—Tolls and Customs—Civil Offices.

Berlin, 7th February 1801.

THE seven years war cost this province at least one hundred and fifty thousand of its inhabitants, and ruined many of its principal cities. It could not be surprising, therefore, that after undergoing such a series of calamities, and such a thorough devastation, the produce of the excise should have suffered a great diminution. Frederick II. without making the due allowance for what was so easily accountable, imagined the deficiencies of return to proceed from a defect in the system of collection. Soon

after the peace he received a visit from the philosopher Helvetius. But, for the misfortune of Prussian people, Helvetius was a farmer-general of France, as well as a philosopher, and persuaded his brother-philosopher-king, that the only way to raise the profits of his excise was, to collect it after the manner of the French farmers-general, and by officers ready trained under them. This system, it is perfectly well known, was at once in the highest degree odious and oppressive to the people who paid the taxes, and unprofitable to the government which raised them; but these little inconveniences were abundantly compensated by the consideration of the immense profits derived from it by the collectors, the farmers-general, of which body Helvetius himself was so worthy a member. The king took his advice, and sent for an army of French excisemen, which he dispersed in every part of his dominions, to take ample vengeance, as the English minister Mitchel observed, for

the defeat of their countrymen at Rosbach. This was the most injudicious and unpopular measure of his whole reign. The system was continued, however, until his death. One of the first acts of his successor was to abolish it, and send home the French excisemen, as you will recollect to have seen in Mirabeau's book.

In each of the two chambers of domains, or receiver-generals' offices, there is a subdivision called the office of domain-rents, into which all the revenues from the domains are paid. Of these domains, the tolls, and turnpike payments, for the maintenance of roads and bridges, the rents of lands belonging to the king personally, and the stamp-taxes, are of an unexceptionable nature. But there seems an absurdity, that the king should declare himself the only salt-merchant in his dominions, and something oppressive and arbitrary in compelling the subject to take a given quantity of the article, whether he wants it or not. This usage

has been, however, established here for more than four centuries. On the south side of the Oder, the Silesians are furnished with this article from the royal salt-works near Halle and Schübek ; on the north side, with rock-salt, from the neighbouring mines of Wieliozka, situated in that part of Poland, which, at the first partition, was allotted to the House of Austria. This rock-salt the farmers give in large masses to their sheep and cows to lick. The fineness and softness of the Silesian wool is ascribed to the use of this salt, which contains a certain portion of petroleum and bitumen.

The tax upon Jews, who are obliged to pay annually ten thousand rixdollars, for being suffered to live in Silesia, is another iniquitous source of revenue to the royal domains. The object was so small, and the tax in its nature so odious, that it might have been expected a monarch who was tolerant and equitable where his interest was not concerned, would have abolished it.

Perhaps he partook of the common prejudice against the Jews, which, you will have seen by some of my former letters, is unufually violent in Silefia.

All perfons appointed to civil offices are likewise obliged to pay the first quarter's falary into the royal domain office.

The fundamental maxim of Frederick II. in affairs of finance was, that the income must always exceed the expenfes. This fyftem is in the prefent reign reftored to its full vigour. The revenues from Silefia are calculated to exceed the outgoings by about half a million of rixdollars.

On the first of June, every year, the estimate of both, for the enfuing twelve months, and the accounts of the year preceding, are laid before the king, and must have his approbation and fignature. Befides this, he receives an abfttract of the amount of income and expenfe to the clofe of every month, from the two general offices. The minifter of Silefia has a limited authority to direct

the payment of unforeseen or contingent charges to a small amount ; but otherwise, no disbursement can be made without an express order from the king.

Thus much may suffice, to give you a general idea of the Prussian government in Silesia, relative to the important point of finance. In some respects it is a system common to all the Prussian dominions. In others it is distinguished by peculiarities which do not extend to the other provinces. But the taxes, heavy, as by the above relation you have found them to be, are not the only burdens which the people are obliged to support, for maintaining the country in a state of defence. There are others of a nature no less aggravating, which I shall reserve for your consideration in my next letter,

LETTER XXXIX.

*Peculiar Burdens to which the Inhabitants
of Silesia are subjected by Prussia.*

Berlin, 14th February 1801.

THE burdens to which I referred at the close of my last letter, and to which the inhabitants of Silesia are subjected under the Prussian government, are—1. *The compulsory obligation of serving the king as soldiers ;—* 2. *The obligation of giving quarters to the troops ;—and,* 3. *Of performing personal labour, and furnishing horses for the king's use, that of his army, and his civil offices, at prescribed and under-rated prices.*—While this province belonged to the House of Austria, the people were, in the same manner, liable to these duties. But they were, apparently, far less oppressive, because, proportionally speaking, there was no army levied,

maintained, or stationed in garrison, within the province, which required the performance of these services. At present, of the forty thousand men which form the Silesian army, about one half are natives of the province, enrolled as a thing of course, and doomed from their birth to military service. A certain district is allotted to every regiment, within which it is to be recruited. The commander has a list of all the inhabitants of the district liable to enrolment, and sends an officer annually round to measure, inspect, and register for service the young men who have attained the age of service. The exemptions from this duty are—only sons and eldest sons of farmers, who are considered as necessary for the tillage of the ground—weavers, and persons engaged in some other useful trades—persons upon whose labour infant families, or an aged mother, depend for subsistence—foreigners settled in the country, and their children—the city of Breslau, and the inhabitants of

the mountains and mountain-towns, for the sake of the linen manufactories. The service of these foldiers in time of peace is required only during three months in the year, when they are assiduously trained and exercised, and which close with the month of August, when the king reviews them at Neyß and Breslau. This Frederick II. never failed to do. His successors have frequently omitted it, and the last summer was the first instance of it under the present reign. During the remainder of the year the native Silesian foldiers are on furlough. Their pay continues, but is not received by them. It is the perquisite of the captains, whose interest is thus engaged not to keep their men in service longer than is absolutely necessary.

The author of an excellent work on the state of Silesia, before and since the year 1740, from which most of the information in my late letters is collected, alleges arguments to prove, that the advantages derived from the army to the province, are more

than sufficient to balance its inconveniences. He says, that the garrisons in the towns, of course, put in circulation a quantity of money, afford subsistence to tradesmen of all descriptions, and furnish a market for the produce of the farmer. He likewise mentions it as the principal means of contributing to the civilization of Upper Silesia, where, but for this, the people would still be deeply plunged in barbarism. The military service habituates the peasant youth to principles of order and the practice of cleanliness, which they communicate, more or less, among their neighbours, upon returning to reside among them; yet there is no question but that the circulation of money, the civilization of the people, order, cleanliness, and refinement of manners, are far greatest in the capital, and in the mountain towns, which are not favoured with these liberal garrisons, and these civilizing soldiers.

The obligation of quartering troops is, in time of peace, confined to the cities. Not

more than two thirds of these have garrisons; but a tax for quartering is assessed alike upon all, and the produce is applied to the payment of the householders who actually lodge soldiers. The allowance is of eight *groschen* (about twenty-five cents. or one shilling and three halfpence sterling) a month for a man, and six *groschen* for a horse. In the principal fortresses barracks have been built at the king's expense, which alleviate, in some degree, this burden upon the citizens.

The most oppressive and iniquitous of all these duties is that of furnishing labour, horses, and other articles, at regulated and inadequate prices. The farmers are thus obliged to furnish post-horses for all persons travelling in the service of the king, at the rate of three *groschen* a mile for each horse. The post-masters make them do the same for all travellers, by what is called *extra-post*; and while they allow the peasant only three *groschen*, they charge the traveller ten for-

every horse he takes. Thus, by the intervention of the government, the traveller and his conductor are both oppressed and defrauded, for the benefit of the post-masters. Is it surprising that the people give their horses in such cases, with extreme reluctance, and that travellers are obliged to wait for six hours together at a post-house for horses? The government itself, as a corrective to its own iniquity, is obliged to make regulations, which are meant to relieve the peasant, but which contribute no less to the vexation and delay of the traveller. Thus, a limited weight of baggage is only allowed, and the postillions are not bound to drive faster than three of our miles an hour. This wretched administration of the post-office is not peculiar to Silesia; it prevails all over Germany; and every traveller with post-horses through this country witnesses the natural and unavoidable effects of such a cause. When an extraordinary number of horses is required for the service of the army,

for work at the fortresses, or for the magazines, the requisitions are distributed, by the respective landraths, round the number of circles designated by the domain-chambers. The prices are regulated by the government. The like rule prevails with regard to the provisions and stores necessary for the troops in time of war.

Upon the same principle, all day-labourers and poor tenants are obliged to work at the building or repairing the fortresses, for wages prescribed by the government. When it is considered what an immense expense of labour Frederick II. bestowed upon the fortification of Silesia, this will appear to have been no trifling object in his reign. It is said that he always paid the workmen liberally ; often beyond the common market rate of workman's wages ; but still the badge of servitude remains.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XL.

*Political Constitution of Silesia—The Nobles,
Citizens, and Peasants.*

Berlin, 24th February 1801.

THE object of this letter will be to give you an idea of the political constitution of the province of Silesia. By the word constitution, I do not here understand what commonly goes by that name in our country. The supreme power in this, as in the other Prussian provinces, is in the hands of a single person: it is a simple monarchy; but it is governed by permanent laws, with regular forms; and the various classes of inhabitants have privileges which every king, upon receiving their homage, promises to protect and maintain.

The inhabitants of Silesia are discriminated in three classes, by the names of nobles,

citizens (or rather townsmen), and peasants. The nobility consist of the proprietors of the mediate principalities. You will remember to have seen in my former letters that the province was parcelled out, when under the Polish government, into nearly twenty distinct principalities, held by various descendants of the Piast family; and that under the Bohemian dominion these principalities escheated to the crown, whenever the branch of the family which respectively held them became extinct. In process of time this happened to them all; but some of the principalities have ever since been held as appendages to the Bohemian, and now to the Prussian sceptre; while others, after the extinction of the Piaſts, were granted to other families. Hence the distinction prevailing at this day between the mediate principalities, possessed by subordinate proprietors, and the immediate principalities belonging to the crown. The privileges of these holders of the mediate principalities are

those of not being bound to do homage to the king, otherwise than in person; and of having a sort of government and judicial courts of their own appointment, subject only to appeal to the highest tribunal of the monarchy, to which alone they are themselves personally amenable. Next to these are the owners of certain free lordships, not bearing the title of principalities, but, like them, conferring the privilege of doing homage in person, and of having their own inferior courts. Others, which bear the name of lesser lordships, have likewise peculiar, but less extensive privileges. Last of all come the counts, barons, and nobles, old and new, between whose rights there is little difference, consisting principally in the capacity to hold a noble landed estate, and in belonging to the class among whom all the high offices of state, ecclesiastical, civil, and military, are exclusively distributed. The landholders only have the right of a seat in the states of the provinces, and they have but a limited power

to purchase lands not previously noble ; they are not allowed to practise any trade or mechanic profession, but may engage in wholesale commerce. The number of noble families amounts to about five thousand.

The townsmen are the inhabitants of the cities ; or rather this denomination comprehends all the inhabitants of the province, other than those belonging to the two other orders. The greatest distinction between the privileges of the nobility and those of the townspeople is, that the former are all personal, and the latter all corporate. The townsman, individually, has no privileges, but, as a citizen, partakes of those which belong to the town. These are not uniform, and in former letters I have noticed some which are peculiar to Breslau and the mountain-towns. In general, the privileges of the towns are—1st, To be governed by their own laws of internal police, and by-laws ; subject, however, to the approbation of the government by the designated provincial tri-

bunal. 2d, To elect their own magistrates ; but this is exercised only by the magistrates themselves : generally their places are for life, and the vacancies are filled up by the choice of the remaining members. 3d, The exclusive right of working or practising in any of the corporate trades within the city. 4th, A privilege, by the name of mile-right, by force of which no trade or mechanic art whatsoever, whether corporate or not, can be exercised within a German mile of the city, but by the burghers themselves. And, 5th, The right of holding annual fairs, under ancient grants from the government. All these things bear the name of privileges ; but what most of them really are, the fairs sufficiently indicate. The principle upon which the fairs are founded is a momentary suspension of the exclusive rights of the corporations—a single week, during which a stranger may sell a coat, or a pair of shoes, or a glass of beer or brandy, within the town ; this last privilege, therefore, is only a short

relief from the burden of the rest. The burghers form about one fourth of the population.

Under the name of peasants, are comprised all the inhabitants of the country without the cities, who are employed in the tillage of the land, with the exception of those who, by birth, office, or some special privilege, belong to one of the other classes. They constitute nearly three quarters of the population. Of this great mass of the people, a very small part are entirely free. By the new Prussian code of laws, personal servitude is, indeed, nominally abolished; but the services and duties of which it consisted are not only retained, but formally regulated by law. According to the difference of these services, the peasants are distinguished by three different denominations: 1st, Peasants, properly speaking. These are men who possess a hut and a small piece of land, and are bound to do farming work for the lord,

without pay, a certain number of days in the week: the number of these days is different upon different estates. 2d, Gardeners, or persons who hold a piece of ground, or a garden, belonging to the lordship, upon the same conditions of farming work for the lord, for which they receive a small and very inadequate portion of the produce of their labour in kind, or a pittance in money; for instance, about five cents American money (not quite twopence three farthings sterling) by the day. 3d, Householders, or persons who hold a hut without land, who subsist by working as day-labourers, and pay the lord a small tax in money. All these people are, in a manner, appendages to the glebe, for they cannot quit the ground to which they belong without the consent of their lords, or paying a sort of redemption-fine; which, though very trifling, as it should seem, being only a ducat, is yet more than most of them can, in the course of their

lives, command. On their part, however, the lords cannot turn these tenants away from the spot of land or the cottage they hold; nor can they sell the estate, without conveying at the same time the tenant, to hold with the same rights and obligations under the new lord. All these securities in favour of the peasants were introduced and established by Frederick II.; for, before his time, the tenant was liable to be turned out of his possession at the lord's pleasure, and employed in domestic service, or left to obtain a subsistence as he could. Several thousands of the peasant farms and cottages were, in consequence of such practices, untenanted and falling to ruin at the period of the Prussian conquest. Frederick obliged the lords to rebuild the cottages, provide them with the grounds, cattle, farming utensils, &c. which had belonged to them when previously occupied, and place in them good able-bodied tenants, whom they were no longer allowed afterwards to remove. This

system, thus established, and rigorously carried into execution, certainly contributed most essentially to better the condition of the peasants; but it was oppressive upon the landlords, and a manifest violation of their rights of property. Such is the character of arbitrary power; its only medicines are extracts from the deadliest poisons; its most bounteous charities are but the fruits of robbery.

It was one of the most laudable principles of Frederick's life to improve, as far as he was able, the condition of his subjects; and an absolute monarch, sincerely and deeply impressed with this wish, and at the same time endowed with the most extraordinary mental powers, must, in the nature of things, succeed in a very considerable degree. Frederick unquestionably did succeed; and, nearly as the veneration of his nation for his memory approaches to idolatry, they know not half their obligations to him. Such is, however, the imperfection of every thing

related to human nature, that even the best intentions, guided by the most consummate abilities, and executed by the most unlimited power, are, in detail, often defeated, and often but partially successful. Frederick's measures were not always those best calculated to answer his designs. Thus, when by particular ordinances he made regulations to relieve the peasants from being overburdened by excessive services, and prescribed the manner in which they might obtain redress against the ill treatment of their landlords, his measures were adapted to their ends, and in a great degree answered them; but when he not only forbade every peasant from possessing more than one small farm, and even compelled those who already possessed more, to sell out or tenant with full-grown sons the superfluous number, it is most probable that his ordinance rather counteracted than promoted the object he had in view. It might tend to preserve things in the state in which they were, and to prevent the dimi-

nution of the number of individuals and of families employed in agriculture ; but it took off the greatest spur of industry, the hopes of bettering one's own condition. Where the farmer is thus prevented from ever acquiring possessions beyond those of absolute necessity for the subsistence of his family, it is the more incumbent upon his government to devise means of repairing the calamities of accident, of unpropitious seasons, or of raging elements. The whole rural part of Silesia is therefore districted out, under the regulations of the government, into societies of mutual insurance, from which every farmer who has suffered extraordinary damage by fire, inundations, storms, mortality of cattle, or other casualty, receives assistance in money, labour, and the articles or animals he has lost. The government likewise remits, for a number of years proportioned to the extent of the misfortune, all the taxes payable by the sufferers from

such events; and the farmer, who without such relief would be irretrievably ruined, is thus preserved to the state, and restored to agriculture.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XLI.

Ecclesiastical Concerns of Silesia—The Catholics—Lutherans—And Calvinists.

Berlin, 3d March 1801:

AFTER having given you a short account of the civil, political, and military constitution of Silesia, it will be proper to say something of its administration in ecclesiastical concerns; an object somewhat complicated in a province, the inhabitants of which are divided, with so near an equality of numbers, into Roman Catholics and Protestants.

I have, in my former letters, already given you an historical narrative of the introduction of the Christian religion into Silesia, and of the dreadful ravages made by the Hussite war in the fifteenth, and the thirty-years war in the sixteenth century. The history of these great events, if duly studied with

a truly honest heart and an impartial mind, is full of instruction. But even to this day, when religion has so little share in the pretexts of human dissensions, it is extremely difficult to preserve that impartiality, and especially to separate the facts from the colours shed upon them by the passions of the historian.

The Silesian bishopric was founded by the converted Duke Miecislaus, in the year 966, and a chapter of several canons was annexed to it. The Duke granted them the right of levying tithes throughout the country; which had previously been a branch of his own ducal revenue. The place of its first establishment was Schmogra; from which it was, nearly a century later, transferred, first to Rezin, and finally to Breslau, where it still remains at this day. Upon its first establishment, the bishop's office was neither of high rank nor of splendid wealth. His functions consisted chiefly in teaching the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Com-

mandments, to the new converts. The canons performed the duties of singers, sextons, and schoolmasters. But, from the period of the foundation, for more than four centuries, the opinion was almost universally prevalent here, as in the rest of Europe, that the compendium of all human virtue, and the atonement of all human vice, consisted in founding, building, and endowing, churches, cloisters, and other religious institutions. To what an excess this was carried, appears in no instance perhaps more forcibly, than in that of Count Peter the Dane; a private nobleman, who lived in the twelfth century, and built in Poland and Silesia no less than seventy-seven churches and monasteries, many of which are still remaining. Animated by the same spirit, the successive dukes continued to enrich the bishoprick and chapter with grants and endowments, until they came into possession of princely revenues and estates, and finally of a princely title. The first bishops, at the

request of the dukes, were Italians sent from Rome by the popes, who did not let slip the occasion of securing to themselves the tribute known by the name of Peter's pence. Some of the subsequent bishops were chosen by the chapter, and confirmed by the people; after which the popes obtained the power of confirmation. This, however, was reduced to a mere form, under the Bohemian and Austrian sovereigns of Silesia, who themselves appointed the bishops, as the kings of Prussia have continued to do since the time of the conquest.

As all the grants of the pious dukes to the see, were of revenues or estates belonging to them as sovereigns, the principle was introduced afterwards, when the veneration for the clergy began to subside, that they were liable to taxation as parts of the regal domains. This principle the Bohemian and Austrian sovereigns found so convenient, that they insensibly put it in practice to the extent at which it was fixed by Frederick II.

when the country fell into his hands—fifty per cent. upon their landed income.

The dominion which the Roman Catholic clergy had obtained over the souls, bodies, and estates of men, excessive as it was, always found resistance of a formidable character, though arising from very different sources. Their power was built upon foundations too solid to be overturned by an arm of flesh. But what kings and emperors had, for many centuries, in vain used all the means in their power to effect, it was reserved for an Augustine monk to accomplish. You have seen, in my former letters, that the principles of Luther's reformation spread very early, and with great rapidity, in Silesia. They were soon followed by a struggle between the old establishment and the new sect, for the possession of the churches and church estates, which, at length, proved the cause of the thirty-years war. The event of this was to leave the Silesian Protestants almost at the mercy of their temporal sovereign, who adhered to the Catholic cause, and was guided

by the Catholic doctrine of bringing back all stragglers from the church by compulsion. There was only an exception in favour of the mediate principalities, whose dukes had embraced the reformation; and a stipulation, that the Protestants of the other principalities might build three churches. From the peace of Westphalia, until the beginning of the eighteenth century, the Protestants in Silesia suffered frequent oppression and persecution; and hundreds of churches and school-houses were taken from them, and given to the Catholic priests and teachers: but in the year 1706, when Charles XII. of Sweden was at the zenith of his power and glory, he undertook to interfere in behalf of the Silesian Lutherans, and prevailed upon the Emperor Joseph I. to conclude a convention, by virtue of which the school-houses and churches, taken from the Lutherans, were restored to them, the building of six new churches was allowed, and the three consistories established at Brieg, Legnitz, and Wohlau. Such nearly re-

maintained the situation of things when Frederick made himself master of the province. Upon his first invasion he declared, that all the several sects should enjoy an equal liberty of worship, and that the Catholics should continue to hold all the churches and church goods which they then possessed. Both these points were afterwards stipulated as formal engagements in the treaty of peace, by which, in 1742, the province was ceded to Prussia. The number of churches at that time in the country amounted to more than two thousand; of which about four hundred belonged to the Lutherans. These, in consequence of the liberty allowed them, have since built about two hundred more; but even now, although they are in number equal to the Catholics, they possess not more than a fourth part of the churches.

The King of Prussia declared himself the immediate head of all the churches in his dominions; and for the administration of the Catholic ecclesiastical concerns, made the bishop his vicar-general. From his spiritual

jurisdiction, an appeal was allowed to a synod of ecclesiastics belonging to the provinces, but none to the pope. The king reserved to himself the appointment of the bishop, as well as to all other superior ecclesiastical offices, and suffered the confirmation of the pope only as a bare formality. He met with some opposition to the exercise of this power from the chapter, but they soon found resistance useless, and submitted.

The superintendence of ecclesiastical concerns and church affairs for the Protestants was committed to three upper consistories, consisting of laymen belonging to the provincial government, and of some clergymen. Their functions and authority are the same with those of the bishop's vicar-general, among the Catholics. It consists of the inspection and custody of the churches and schools, the examination of candidates before they are allowed to commence preachers, the confirmation and ordination of clergymen, and a certain jurisdiction in matrimo-

nial concerns. Each consistory appoints a number of inspectors, who, within their several districts, superintend the churches and schools, and attend to the execution of the consistorial ordinances.

There are in the province about seventy convents of monks, and eighteen of nuns, which contain about two thousand souls. The priors and abbesses are appointed by the king, from a list of three candidates, chosen by the members of the convent itself. Before the order of Jesuits was abolished, they had here eleven colleges, the revenues of which are now applied to the maintenance of the university at Breslau, and of some other schools.

The presentation to a common parsonage belongs to the lord or owner of the spot where it is situated. But this is subject to the confirmation of the king, exercised by the domain-chambers. This confirmation is dependent upon the result of an examination into the character and sentiments of the

person presented. An oath of allegiance is likewise required, as a preliminary to it. These are necessary checks to counteract that aversion to the Prussian government, and that propensity towards the House of Austria, which is yet far from being eradicated among the Catholics of Silesia.

Besides the two religious sects into which the inhabitants of the province are divided, there are a small number of Calvinists, who, under the former government, were alike obnoxious to the Catholics and Lutherans, and, therefore, persecuted and oppressed. But since they have been put on an equal footing of religious liberty with the others, they have built churches in Breslau, and in a few other towns. Their clergy receive moderate salaries from the king, and are thus placed above that state of indigence, which is so burdensome and so pernicious to the consideration and influence of the Catholic and Lutheran clergy. These have scarcely any other subsistence than the casual fees

they receive for the performance of their functions, of baptism, marriage, confession, burial, &c. ; and these being all fixed, in money, at rates judged equitable some centuries ago, have so much depreciated, that they cannot suffice to support a clergyman and his family, without some assistance from other sources. They are thus obliged to devote part of their time to farming, or to mechanic trades ; occupations which, however useful and respectable in themselves, have a tendency to degrade them in the estimation of the people to whom they are given as spiritual guides, and often withdraw them from the studies suited to their office, as well as from the performance of their duties.

The situation of the province with regard to schools and institutions for the education of youth, will, by natural connexion, claim our next attention. But this I shall reserve for my following letter.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XLII.

Schools and Seminaries for the Instruction of Youth in Silesia—System of Education established by Frederick II. upon the Recommendation of Felbiger.

Berlin, 7th March 1801.

I HAVE promised in this letter to give you some account of the institutions in the province of Silesia, for the education of youth. The university at Breslau, and the academy of nobles at Liegnitz, I need not mention, having noticed them in my letters, at the time when we visited those places. Besides these, there are what we call grammar-schools, where Latin is taught in almost every town of the province, and usually in connexion with some church or convent. But the arrangements and regulations of the trivial schools, as they are here called, schools

destined for that elementary instruction which ought to be diffused over the whole mass of the people, particularly deserve your attention; because you may perhaps, as a native of New-England, entertain the prejudice, that your own country is the only spot on earth where this object is rightly managed, and where the arts of reading and writing are accomplishments almost universally possessed.

Probably, no country in Europe could so strongly contest our pre-eminence in this respect as Germany; and she, for this honourable distinction, is indebted principally to Frederick II.; to the zeal with which he pursued the purpose of spreading useful knowledge among all classes of his subjects; and to the influence of his example, and of his success, even beyond the limits of his own dominions. To enter upon this topic, with the details of which it is susceptible, might, perhaps, not amuse you, and would lead me too far from my subject; I shall,

therefore, confine myself to the measures he adopted, and the system he introduced, in this particular into Silesia.

At the time of his conquest, education had seldom made an object of the concern of governments, and Silesia, like the rest of Europe, was but wretchedly provided, either with schools or teachers. In the small towns and villages the schoolmasters were so poorly paid, that they could not subsist without practising some other trade, besides their occupation as instructors, and they usually united the character of the village-fiddler with that of the village-schoolmaster. Even of these there were so few, that the children of the peasants in general, throughout the province, were left untaught. This was especially the case in Upper Silesia. Frederick issued an ordinance, that a school should be kept in every village, and that a competent subsistence should be provided for the schoolmaster, by the joint contribution of the lord of the village, and of the tenants themselves.

The superintendence of the schools was prescribed as the duty of the clergy.

But, in order that this ordinance might have its due execution, it was necessary to form the teachers themselves, properly qualified to give useful instruction. This was effected by the persevering intelligence and zeal of a man, by the name of Felbiger, an Augustine monk, belonging to a convent at Sagan ; a man, says a Silesian historian, whom a great part of Germany must thank for a revolution, not less important, though of slower progress and milder character, than that which, two centuries and a half earlier, was accomplished by another monk of the same order—by Luther.

Felbiger, after spending some years at Berlin, to obtain a perfect knowledge of the best method of instruction practised in the schools there, returned to Sagan, and made the convent to which he belonged, a seminary for young ecclesiastics, and candidates as schoolmasters, to acquire the knowledge

of the improved mode of teaching. Several other institutions of the same kind were, in due time, established at Breslau, Glatz, and other places, upon his principles, and conducted by persons whom he had formed. To defray the expenses necessary for the support of these seminaries, a fund is raised, consisting of one quarter's salary, which every Catholic curate is obliged to pay, upon being first settled in a parsonage.

With each of these seminaries are connected certain schools; where the young candidates for the clerical or teaching office are obliged to attend, and observe the practice of the method, the theory of which they learn at the seminaries themselves. The clergy are required, no less than the teachers, to go through this process, because the superintendence over the teachers is intrusted to them. No young man can be admitted to either of the offices, without an attestation of his qualification from one of the seminaries.

After all these preparatory measures had been carried into effect, an ordinance was published in the year 1765, prescribing the mode of teaching, as adopted in the seminaries, and the manner in which the clergy should superintend the efficacious establishment of the system. The regulations of this ordinance prove the earnestness with which the King of Prussia laboured to spread the benefits of useful knowledge among his subjects. The teachers are directed to give plain instruction, and upon objects applicable to the ordinary concerns of life; not merely to load the memory of their scholars with words, but to make things intelligible to their understanding; to habituate them to the use of their own reason, by explaining every object of the lesson, so that the children themselves may be able to explain it, upon examination. The candidates for school-keeping must give specimens of their ability, by teaching at one of the schools connected with the seminary, in the presence

of the professors at the seminary, that they may remark and correct any thing defective in the candidate's method. If one school suffices for more than one village, neither of them must be more than half a German mile distant from it, in the flat country; nor more than a quarter of a mile, in the mountainous parts. The school-tax must be paid by the lord and tenants, without distinction of religions. In the towns, the school must be kept the whole year round. It is expected that one month shall suffice to make a child know the letters of the alphabet; that in two it shall be able to join them; and in three, to read. The boys must all be sent to school, from their sixth to their thirteenth year, whether the parents are able to pay the school-tax or not. For the poor, the school-money must be raised by collections. Every parent or guardian who neglects to send his child or pupil to school, without sufficient cause, is obliged to pay a double school-tax, for which the guardians shall have no allowance. Every curate must

examine, weekly, the children of the school in his parish. A general examination must be held annually, by the deans of the districts, of the schools within their respective precincts; and a report of the condition of the schools, the talents and attention of the schoolmasters, the state of the buildings, and of attendance by the children, made to the office of the vicar-general, who must transmit all these reports to the royal domain offices. From these, orders are issued to the respective landraths, to correct the abuses and supply the deficiencies indicated in the reports. This system was at first prepared only for the Catholic schools; but it was afterwards adopted, for the most part, by most of the Lutheran consistories. Its truly respectable author, Felbiger, was, in the sequel, with the consent of Frederick, invited to Vienna, by the Empress Maria Theresa, and her son Joseph II. who appointed him director of the normal schools, or seminaries, in all the Austrian dominions.

His regulations have been introduced, and are acted upon, in almost all the Catholic countries of Germany.

In Silesia they had, at first, many old prejudices to contend with. The indolence of the Catholic clergy was averse to the new and troublesome duty imposed on them. Their zeal was alarmed at the danger arising from this dispersion of light to the stability of their church. They considered alike the spirit of innovation, and the spirit of inquiry, as their natural enemies. Besides this, the system still meets resistance from the penurious parsimony and stubborn love of darkness, prevailing in some parts of the province. Many villages neglect the support of their schools; many individuals, upon false pretexts, forbear sending their children to school, for the sake of saving the tax. The compulsive measures, and the penalties, prescribed by the ordinance, are used seldom, and with reluctance. The benevolent design has not been accomplished to

the full extent of which it was susceptible ; but, as far as it has been accomplished, its operation has been a blessing. That its effects have been very extensive, is not to be doubted, when we compare the number of schools throughout the province, in the year 1752, when they amounted only to one thousand five hundred and fifty-two, with that in the year 1798, when they were more than three thousand five hundred. The consequences of a more general diffusion of knowledge are attested by many other facts equally clear. Before the seven years war, there had scarcely ever been more than one periodical journal or gazette published in the province, at one time. There are, now, no less than seventeen newspapers and magazines, which appear by the day, the week, the month, or the quarter, many of them upon subjects generally useful, and containing valuable information and instruction for the people. At the former period there were but three book-sellers, and all these at Breslau. There are,

now, fix in that capital, and seven dispersed about in the other cities. The number of printing-presses and of book-binders has increased in the same proportion.

Doctor Johnson, in his life of Watts, has bestowed a just and exalted encomium upon him, for not disdaining to descend from the pride of genius and the dignity of science, to write for the wants and the capacities of children. "Every man acquainted," says he, "with the common principles of human actions, will look with veneration on the writer, who is at one time combating Locke, and at another time making a catechism for children in their fourth year." But how much greater still is the tribute of admiration irresistibly drawn from us, when we behold an absolute monarch, the greatest general of his age, eminent as a writer in the highest departments of literature, descending, in a manner, to teach the alphabet to the children of his kingdom; bestowing his care, his persevering assiduity, his in-

fluence and his power, in diffusing plain and useful knowledge among his subjects ; in opening to their minds the first and most important pages of the book of science, in filling the whole atmosphere they breathed, with that intellectual fragrance, which had before been imprisoned in the vials of learning, or enclosed within the gardens of wealth !—Immortal Frederick ! when seated on the throne of Prussia, with kneeling millions at thy feet, thou wast only a king. On the fields of Leuthen, of Zorndorf, of Rosbach, of so many other scenes of human blood and anguish, thou wast only a hero. Even in thy rare and glorious converse with the Muses and with science, thou wast only a philosopher, an historian, a poet ; but in this generous ardour, this active and enlightened zeal for the education of thy people, thou wast truly great—the father of thy country—the benefactor of mankind.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XLIII.

ON THE LITERATURE AND SCIENCE
OF SILESIA.

*Kloeber—Remarks on his “Silesia before
and since the Year 1740”—Silesian
Authors—Opitz—Wolff—Garve.*

Berlin, 17th March 1801.

As I have promised to make this the last of my letters to you upon the subject of Silesia, you will not be surpris'd to find it somewhat miscellaneous and desultory ; though its contents will all have reference, more or less remote, to the state of literature and science in the province ; a subject naturally connected with those of my two last letters, and by its interest and dignity well entitled to serve as the closing topic.

In one of my former letters I have told you that much of the information you will

find in those I have written you since my return to Berlin was collected from a German work, which, under a very modest title of "*Silesia before and since the Year 1740,*" contains the most concise and comprehensive model of a provincial history that I ever read. Its author, whose name is not mentioned in the work, was a person born in Switzerland, but settled in Silesia, first as tutor to a son of the minister of the province, and afterwards as a counsellor of the domain-office at Breslau. His name was Kloeber,

The greatest defect of his book is too great a devotion to that fashionable philosophy which, either being in its essence, or having degenerated into an anti-religious faction, has been indefatigable in its exertions to shed ridicule and odium upon the purest and holiest doctrines that were ever imparted to mankind for their comfort and support. A lighter blemish is an admiration of Frederick II. too indiscriminating, which led the author to represent, and doubtless to see

many of that great King's measures in a more favourable light than they deserved.

His comparative view of the state of knowledge, literature, the fine arts, and science, in the province under its former and its present government, bears some tokens of both these faults. He represents the former as a period of the most excessive restraint, the latter as an age of unbounded liberty for the Silesian muses; and endeavours to shew that, by a necessary connexion with those facts, their former occupations were exclusively confined to words and abstractions, the useless phantasms, or, at best, the mere instruments of the human intellect; while their present employments were to scrutinize things, and promote the real happiness of human life. But the literary liberty of the present time is not so very different from its former slavery, as his statement would lead us to suppose. The press is still subject to a censure in the Prussian dominions; and when it is remarked that Mr.

Kloeber's own book, though an original, was published as a translation from the English, though in fact printed at Breslau, bears in its title-page the name of Freiburg as the place of its publication, and, though anonymous, exposed its author afterwards to many vexations, and almost to persecution, it must be owned that he exhibits a very indifferent specimen of that unlicensed freedom which he so much extols.

Neither do I believe, that to discard entirely the study of words and abstractions from public institutions of education, for the purpose of introducing an exclusive application to things, has a tendency to enlarge either the sphere of human knowledge, or that of human happiness. Perfection in this point, as perhaps in all others, consists in a proper medium; mere experience will never be any thing better than a quack doctor with his infallible nostrum, as mere meditation will always be a madman. A system of education, therefore, founded upon

the principle of exercising only the senses, is as imperfect as one which occupies exclusively the understanding. Words are only the tools of human wisdom; but without the tools, no trade can either be learnt or practised. Abstractions are not applicable to the common occasions of life; but most of the common occasions of life are owing to the previous and general application of abstractions to things. If Archimedes had not discovered the forty-seventh proposition of the first book of Euclid, Columbus would never have discovered America.

Without pursuing any further an argument too copious to be duly treated in this place, I shall only observe, that all the men of remarkable eminence of whose birth Silesia can boast, were educated upon the old system of the universities. Silesia has for many centuries been distinguished for the cultivation of literature: Melancthon celebrated them in the sixteenth century, as being more addicted to the arts of rhetoric and poetry than

any part of Germany. In the year 1680 was published, under the title of "*Silesia Togata*," a catalogue of Silesian authors, amounting to more than two thousand, and whose writings were upon subjects of politics, history, genealogy, natural philosophy, literature, antiquities, and the remarkable objects in the province. At this day there are reckoned to be about five hundred Silesian authors living, whose works embrace topics equally various, but with the difference, that the German is now almost exclusively the language in which they write, as the Latin was then.

Among this crowd of literary candidates for the Temple of Fame, there are doubtless numerous gradations of the merit upon which each individual's pretensions are founded: but very few can ever succeed in passing even the threshold, and still fewer in penetrating beyond the first hall of entrance. Of the three chief worthies whose names deserve above the rest to be recorded, Opitz, Wolff,

and Garve, that of the second only has been much heard of beyond the bounds of Germany.

Martin Opitz may truly be considered as the father of German poetry. He was born at Bunzlau in 1597, and died at Danzig in 1639. He wrote in verse and in prose, in Latin and in German; originals, translations, and imitations. His original poems consist of an Eulogium upon the God of War; a Description of Mount Vesuvius; Verses in Praise of Bacchus; Panegyrics upon distinguished Persons, his contemporaries; Epithalamiums, Funeral Songs, Elegies, Odes, Sonnets, Epigrams, &c. His translations, of tragedies from Sophocles and Seneca; of the Psalms, Solomon's Song, and the Lamentations; of Cato's Distichs, and from sundry other classics. He likewise put the Treatise of Grotius, upon the Truth of the Christian Religion, into German verse. He published, in prose, a Treatise upon German Prosody; and although the poets

of the present age have introduced a greater variety of measures, with all the forms of the Latin epic and lyric verse, as well as the English blank verse ; yet, for the great essentials of poetical genius and harmonious numbers, it is said by competent judges that he has been surpassed by none of the German poets of the present age. His most common measure of verse is the Alexandrine, which, in his age, was much used by the English poets too, though afterwards, with reason, abandoned by them, as too formal and monotonous : it is the measure of Drayton's *Polyolbion*.

Christian Wolff, one of the most eminent moral philosophers of the last century, was born at Breslau in 1679, and received his early education at the Magdalen school in that town, as Opitz had done before. Being the son of a poor, though reputable tanner, he had not the means of pursuing his studies to the extent which his inclination urged ; but it is the peculiar prerogative of genius,

not only to burst through all restraints of this nature, but often to turn them to the greatest account. Wolff happened to be the owner of a single book, which was Euclid's Elements, with a comment by Clavius; this, for the want of others from which to satiate his thirst of knowledge, he was obliged to study incessantly. When this had fixed the application of his mind to geometry, he procured, by frequenting the public library, the means of studying a system of algebra by the same Clavius. While he was thus employed, his curiosity often induced his attendance at the public disputations held in the Catholic colleges, and his taking a part in them. He says himself that the concurrence of these circumstances first led him to the idea, that geometrical demonstration was no more than a series of duly connected syllogisms, such as he was in the habit of using to support his theses at the disputations. This one idea was the foundation of all his fame, and the origin of the method which

he always pursued in his philosophical works—that of adapting the forms of geometrical reasoning to the subjects of moral philosophy. With some difficulty, and by pecuniary assistance from the magistrates of his native place, he succeeded in procuring the advantage of instruction at the university of Jena, and afterwards in that of Leipzig. His first publication was a probationary dissertation to obtain the degree of master of arts. In this treatise he unfolded his system of applying mathematics to moral philosophy; a system to which he adhered in all his subsequent voluminous writings. At Leipzig he became acquainted with Leibnitz, and adopted his theory, so much celebrated and so much ridiculed, of the *pre-established harmony*. In 1707, Wolff became professor of mathematics and natural philosophy at Halle, where, by the superior splendour of his reputation, and weight of influence, he excited the malevolence and envy of two professors, his colleagues, named

Lange and Gundling. They attacked, and procured others to attack his writings; but finding themselves unsuccessful in that field, they tried another with happier effect. They had appealed to the King of Prussia, Frederick William I. father of the Great Frederick, and protector of the university, stating the necessity of suppressing Wolff's doctrine of pre-established harmony, which they contended was tantamount to fatalism. The King, who knew as little about one as the other, and thought it only a dispute concerning hard words, favoured Wolff the most, as the most profitable professor, and prohibited all further attack against him. Lange and Gundling, however, by working with the logic of a sort of court buffoon, who was likewise president of the Academy of Sciences, upon the sagacity of two generals, at length succeeded in making the King comprehend, that pre-established harmony made man a mere machine, and of course made it perfectly a blameless action *in a soldier to*

desert. To confirm this ingenious theory, the two generals complained, that since the promulgation of those pernicious doctrines, the desertion among the troops had actually increased to an alarming degree. There is no penetration so acute, no address so well applied, as that of dulness, inspired by malice and envy, and working for the ruin of genius. The rivals of Wolff had touched the true string to the King's heart. He was now sure that pre-established harmony meant atheism, or high treason, or both, and instantly dismissed Wolff from his professorship, with an order to withdraw from Halle within twenty-four hours, and from the Prussian territories within two days, upon pain of death. The banished philosopher found, however, a new patron in the King of Sweden, then Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, who gave him a professorship at Marburg, with the same rights and distinctions he had enjoyed at Halle. The Prussian university was deserted by most of its students; and

Frederick William began to doubt of the pernicious tendency of pre-established harmony. At *this* stage of the business, in the true spirit of despotism, hang first and then try, he ordered four ecclesiastics of Berlin to examine and make report upon the writings of Wolff. The report was altogether favourable; and the King, at two different periods, in 1733 and 1739, made advances and proposals to draw back the Professor to Halle, which he with proper spirit and dignity rejected. At the invitation of Frederick II. however, upon his accession, and with the King of Sweden's consent, he returned, and was reinstated at Halle, with a handsome salary, the title of privy counsellor, and the liberty of lecturing as he should think proper, without limitation. He afterwards was appointed chancellor of the university, and, in 1745, was created a baron by the Elector of Bavaria. His fame and his doctrines were now triumphant in every part of the learned world; but found, before his death,

more formidable enemies in Maupertuis and Voltaire than Lange and Gundling had been. He died in 1754. The credit of his philosophy began already to decline, and at this day thousands and thousands of readers, perfectly familiar with Voltaire's ridicule of pre-establiſhed harmony, know not that it was pointed ſtill more at Wolff than againſt Leibnitz.

Chriſtian Garve was born at Breſlau in 1742, and educated at the univerſities of Halle and Leipzig, where he was for ſome time profeſſor of moral philoſophy. The latter part of his life he ſpent in his native city, where he died in the year 1799. His works are numerous, originals and tranſlations; but almoſt wholly upon ethical ſubjects. His tranſlation and comment upon Cicero's Offices, done at the requeſt of Frederick II. is ſaid to be ſuch as if it had been dictated by the very genius of the Roman philoſopher. His review of Mendelſſohn's Phædon, and his remarks upon Ferguſon's

Moral Philosophy, these writers declared they would rather have written than the books themselves. Among his most celebrated productions is a Treatise upon the Agreement between Morals and Politics. The last work he published was Anecdotes of Frederick II. and of his Conversations with him. He is certainly to be esteemed one of the first names in German literature.

Such men as these are the highest ornaments and glory of the country which gave them birth. In giving an account of it, not to name them would be a sort of injustice to the country itself. You will not think these very short biographical sketches, therefore, out of place, though you will not be sorry to find me, with them, now bid a final adieu to Silesia.

Yours affectionately.

THE END.

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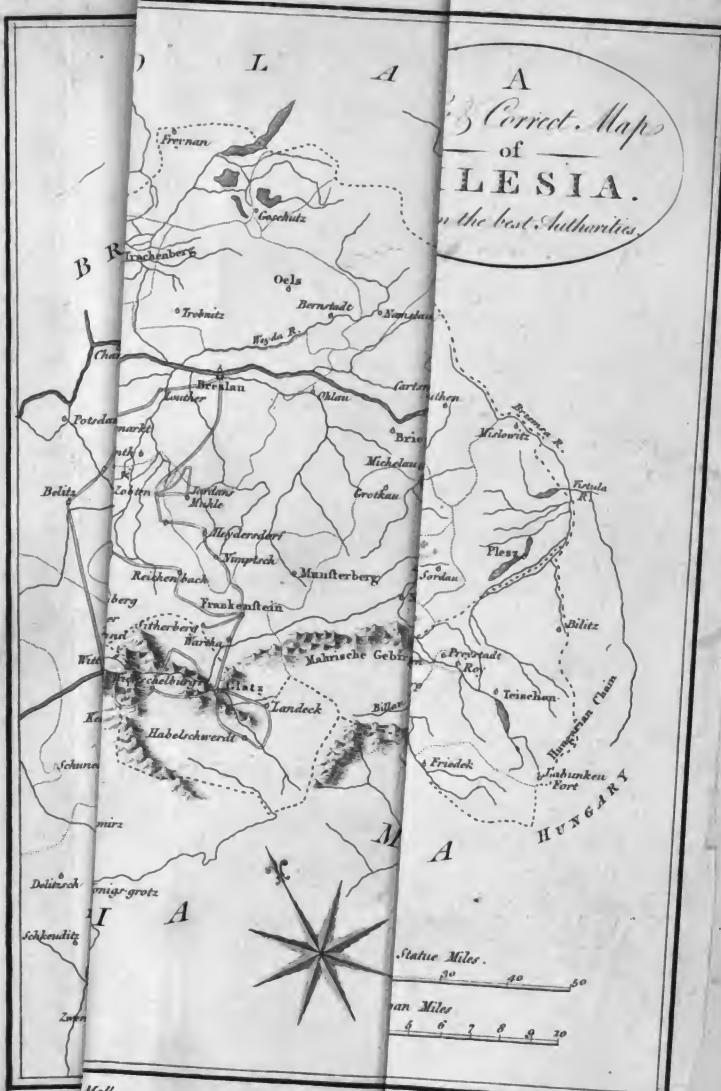
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